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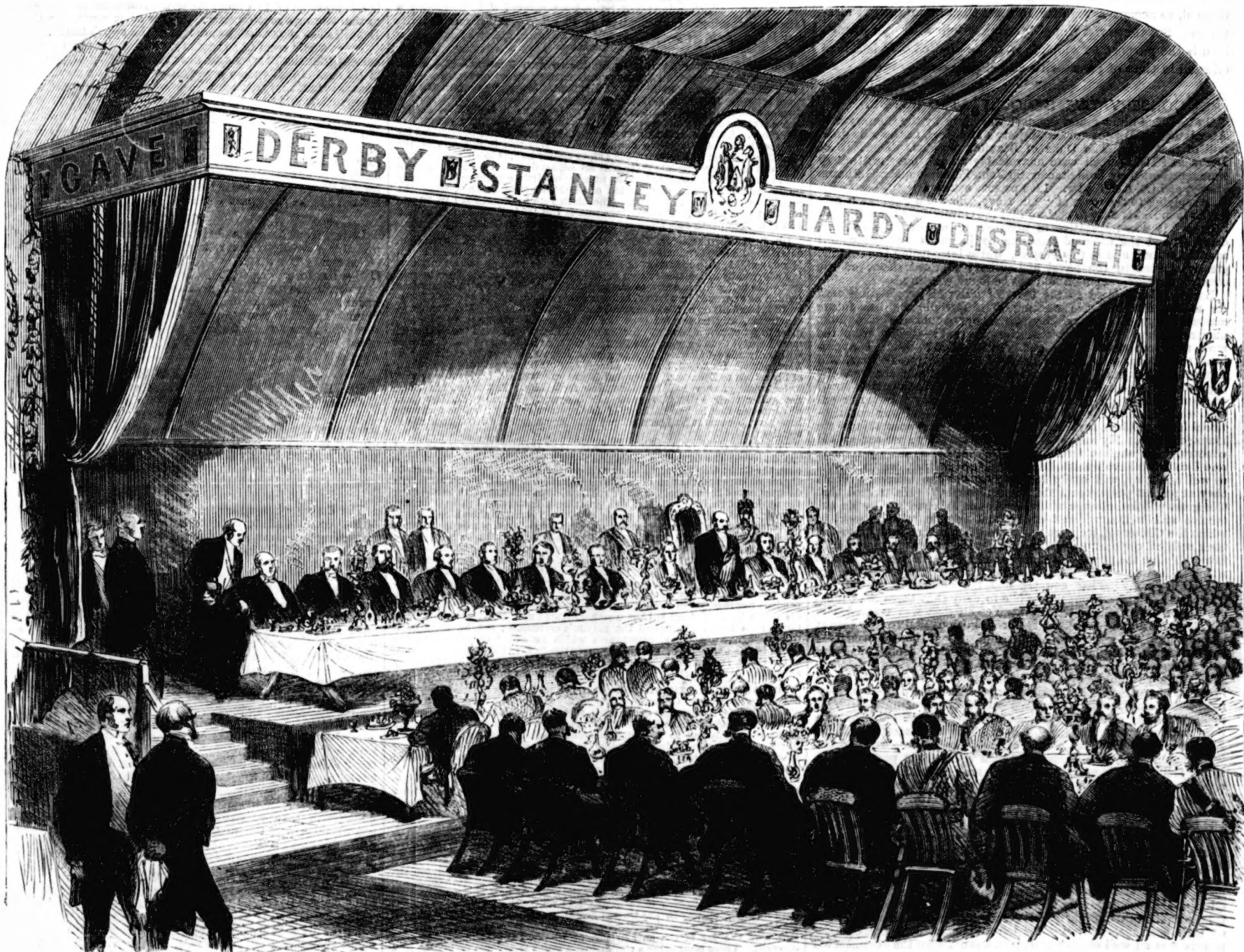
WAR LOANS.

"THE whole world," said a late Emperor of Austria, in the language of his ancient realm, "has gone crazy, and wants to have constitutions." "*Totus mundus stultizat et constitutiones vult habere.*" Nearly every country in Europe has some sort of constitution now; and what they are all going mad about is standing armies, and their inevitable accompaniment, loans. It may be said that the maddest countries of all are not those which ask for the loans, but those which grant them. In any case there is a vast deal of what is called "financing" going on just now among the States of Europe. Some Governments borrow from their own subjects; some, unable to inspire confidence at home, go abroad for their money; others again—among which Spain may be cited as an instructive example—have exhausted their resources everywhere, and do not know where to turn to find money even for a few thousand breech-loaders. Foreigners may say that it is not for England, with a debt of upwards of 800 millions, to criticise the indebtedness of other countries. But the great question is not what one owes, but to what extent one is pressed. England bears the weight of her enormous debt easily enough. Above all—and this is really the important matter—we are not troubled in England by those terrible annual deficits which vex the pocket and disturb the policy of so many Continental States. "Give me

a good policy, and I will give you good finances," said one of the most celebrated Finance Ministers of France to the chief of the Cabinet. The chief of the Cabinet might have replied—"Give me good finances, and I will give you a good policy." For, if the general political direction of affairs has influence on the state of the exchequer, it is also evident that no very forcible line of policy could ever be carried out with the exchequer in an unsound condition. One of the secrets of the success of Prussia, since the time of the Great Elector, has been the economy of the Prussian Government, and the constant maintenance of a good balance in the Prussian national bank. If Frederic the Great's father had not left him, together with a fine army, "good finances," he would not have been able, at the opportune moment, to make use of that army. Indeed, a lover of peace for its own sake alone might find a cynical pleasure in contemplating the vast expenditure which the great Powers of Europe are keeping up, or, by all possible means, endeavouring to keep up; convinced, as he well might be, that it cannot last, and that their efforts to keep themselves in the most highly-trained fighting condition must end in their utter exhaustion. The great breech-loader movement is going on at such a pace that at the end of the present year all Europe, from both sides of the British Channel to the Caucasus, will be armed with them. Then we shall see whether Russia really means

to make one more attempt to solve the Eastern question by military means, whether France will succeed in inducing Austria to join her in an attack upon Prussia, what Italy means to do, and whether pacific England will succeed in keeping altogether clear of the great political and military scramble which seems so inevitable. But, if the generally-expected war does not begin as soon as the breech-loaders are ready, there is really some possibility of its being averted, at least for some considerable time. Instead of ruining themselves by war, in the old orthodox fashion, the nations of Europe will have ruined themselves by peace.

The well-known argument that the probabilities in favour of peace increase in direct proportion to the destructiveness of the more and more murderous weapons that are constantly being invented, suggests—considered in connection with the actual pecuniary condition of Continental Governments—a proposition of an analogous nature, which we believe to be equally true. It is this: that the probabilities in favour of peace increase in direct proportion to the expensiveness of modern warfare. One battle, in the present day, does the work of a whole war, as war was conducted in the last century. So, the cost of a modern battle is greater than the cost of an ancient war. The result is seen in the campaign of Prussia against Austria, called by Lieutenant Hozier "the



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seven weeks," and by other more emphatic historians, "the seven days' war."

However, the new military system, though it involves much less actual fighting than the old, is terribly weakening to a country all the same. It takes more men away from useful, productive occupations, and it costs very much more money. France is at this moment feeling the effects of the system very acutely. The new loan announced by M. Magne, the Minister of Finance, is represented by French Government writers as only a trifle; but it is a trifle of 440 millions of francs, which is always something. "Great patriotic sacrifices," says M. Magne, "are necessary from the country," which means that a good deal more money is still wanted to pay for the Chassepot rifles made and ordered to be made. What the Minister wants—what, in his own magnificent language, France is particularly in need of—is "a guarantee of peace resulting from force;" that is to say, he desires the army to be so numerous and so well armed that the Powers of Europe will think twice before making up their minds to attack France. The worst of this view is that if it is adopted by other States—and what is true for France also holds true on the part of Prussia, Austria, Russia, and every other country—a general competition must take place as to which shall have the most men and the most murderous breech-loaders. Every form of pecuniary burden in France is to be increased. In time of peace, with a budget which is already enormous, the public debt is to be augmented, the numbers of the army are to be raised, Government expenses of all kinds are to be added to; and the result of all this, according to the Finance Minister, is to be "a calm and fruitful peace."

Of course, a loan is an excellent thing if funds are absolutely wanted and there is no other way of obtaining them. In France, too, since the accession of the present Emperor, it has been the custom to borrow money for State purposes not abroad, but at home. Thus the money paid away annually in interest has at least not gone out of the country; and there are financiers ingenious enough to find cause for rejoicing in that really unimportant fact. The great point to consider in the question of internal loans—and which commercial men in France are considering very attentively just now—is that the money lent to the State is so much money kept away from trade. The directors of companies, and of public enterprises of all kinds, are especially annoyed at the abstraction by the Exchequer of money which might otherwise have found its way into their hands. The man of small savings prefers the security offered by the Government to any that the get-together of joint-stock companies can give him, and he is content, feeling that the Government security is good, to accept a smaller interest than he might get elsewhere. But the worst thing in connection with the French loan is the purpose to which it is to be applied. It is a loan effected in time of peace with an evident view to war.

CONSERVATIVE BANQUET AT BRISTOL.

On the 22nd ult., a grand banquet was given by the Conservative Association of Bristol to her Majesty's Ministers, in the rifle drill-hall of that city. The Duke of Beaufort presided. The Earl of Derby and Mr. Disraeli were unavoidably absent, but the Ministry were represented by Lord Stanley, Sir John Pakington, Mr. Gathorne Hardy, and Colonel Taylor. 1200 persons sat down.

In replying to the toast of "The Navy," Sir John Pakington said he felt it to be his duty to declare that the Government thought that, above all, it was imperative to maintain unimpaired the national defences and the national resources by judicious but economical administration; and in this respect, whilst introducing the reforms greatly needed in the naval and military administrations of the country, the Government would not be found wanting.

Lord Stanley replied to the toast of "Her Majesty's Ministers." As to the fear that the working classes would be the future masters of the country, because they would be the most numerous class in the constituencies, he said:—"Who were the most numerous class in the old constituencies? Well, I apprehend the answer would be, small tradesmen, tenant-farmers, and persons in that rank of life; but I look in vain through the legislation of the last thirty years for any indication that small tradesmen and tenant-farmers have directed, in any peculiar or exclusive sense, either the making or administration of our constitutional laws. Others say, look at the colonies; see how things are managed there. My answer is, we are not a colony; we are an old country, with ancient traditions and social habits deeply rooted; and I do not believe wealth fairly used, and culture, which is real as well as showy, will easily lose in England the influence which they at present possess over the English people." He trusted that this great political change would be at once followed up by an extensive and well-considered educational scheme, with respect to which the Conservatives were not behind, but rather in advance, of their political opponents; and he thought the present time was most favourable for the passing of such a measure. The next subject to which he had to allude was the difficult and not very satisfactory one of Ireland. That country had the same civil rights and privileges as England, but it was idle to deny that there was great dissatisfaction and discontent in it. Yet all that was wanted was a little peace and a little security for English capital to flow into it by millions. The remedy was most difficult, and he had asked for one in vain, so that he would not now attempt to offer one, but only to suggest a few hints. First of all, he might say that the English people would never allow the empire to be pulled to pieces in virtue of any fantastic theories, nor because some politicians may have talked unadvisedly about the sacred cause of nationality as applied to other countries. Ireland and England were inseparable now and for ever. The irruption of disbanded members of the American army was a temporary evil:—"Every war—every great war—leaves behind it a residuum of men unfitted for peaceful pursuits: full of energy and courage, and reckless of life. Taken as a whole, and considering the number of the forces engaged, I do not think the proportion of that class in the United States has been very great; still there are a good many of them, and we are blessed with the presence of not a few of them here. This is an inconvenience which, in the nature of things, will not continue." There never was a time when the English people were more willing, nay, were more desirous, to meet the just wishes of the Irish people, and to conciliate their affections and goodwill; but with these remarks, they must excuse him from saying more on the two great questions of the day—the Church and the land. He hoped that they would be thoroughly and fearlessly discussed in Parliament in all their bearings. Security for improvements, with proper safeguards, was all well enough; but that was not what the discontented in Ireland wanted:—"What, I won't say the Irish peasant, but a considerable number of the Irish peasantry, want, is not com-

pensation for improvements, which not one in a hundred ever makes, but to be transferred without payment from yearly tenants into owners of the soil. Now that is a demand which I cannot conceive under any circumstances that a British Legislature can assent to. If the principle is good for Ireland it is good for England also; and more than that, if the operation is to be performed once it will have to be repeated indefinitely, for the tenant, turned proprietor, might, of course, sublet, and if I know anything of Irish nature, he certainly will; and then you will have a fresh class of tenants at will under the same conditions as those who existed before, with only this difference, that you will have removed a body of landlords who were tolerably well to do, and substituted for them others who will be needy, and consequently very exacting. Nor must you forget this, that under a system of innumerable small ownerships you would have the very worst evil of the Ireland of old days repeated and intensified—I mean the continual subdivision of holdings and the consequent indefinite multiplication of paupers. Every landlord, good or bad, for his own interest endeavours to check that tendency to subdivision. Take away the check, and in twenty years' time I will undertake to say you would have a population doubled in number, every one of them supported exclusively by the soil, all of them, therefore, trusting to the potato; and when that fails, as from time to time it always will, then look out for the famine of 1847 over again." He did not say what was the remedy for that discontent, but, said he:—"This I do say, don't let us call in quacks; don't let us fly to desperate remedies because the doctors cannot find out an instant and a perfect cure for a disease which is of long standing. Don't let us buy present ease, even if we could do it, at the cost of an enormous future mischief. Let us set right what we see and believe to be wrong, but let us do that for the satisfaction of our own consciences, and not as a concession to mere noise and menace. Having done that, let us take our stand; let us appeal to English and to loyal Irish feeling to support us, and so abide the issue." As to the Abyssinian war, his Lordship feared it would be costly in point of money, but not in the sacrifice of life. The country was passing through a period of great commercial depression, but the best authorities held that it was now passing away; and even in Fenianism there was this one good, that it had called forth the undoubted loyalty of all classes of the country, whilst they pitied the folly of the misguided men who had been deluded into such crimes against those who had shown themselves only anxious to help them.

"The House of Commons," which was the next toast, was responded to by Mr. Gathorne Hardy. After making an elaborate defence of the Reform policy of the Government, he alluded to the Irish question, and then proceeded to the discussion of more strictly social questions, as education and the rights of capital and labour, upon which he, however, deprecated hasty legislation. He then referred to the great social epidemic of the day, and compared the Fenians to "locusts that the west wind had brought from a distant country." He pointed out questions arising out of the relation of labour and capital and of friendly societies, and, as to the vagrant class, he said:—"Another great question which requires consideration is this—Is it not a sin and a shame that there should be in this country 40,000 or 50,000 who do nothing but feed on the industry of their fellow-citizens, going from place to place like locusts eating up the fruits of the country?" Mr. Hardy concluded his speech with expressing a fear that, from the present attitude of Earl Russell, such questions as those of Ireland and education would be made party questions; but against this he called upon his hearers to unite.

The *Examiner* represents Lord Stanley as returning the reply. "I say nothing," to every question that can interest the public mind. The *Spectator* thinks Lord Stanley's ability was chiefly shown in the very conservative task of explaining how to let ill alone. The *Saturday Review* says, not a single word was uttered at the banquet which might not have been uttered if it had been a Liberal gathering. Conservatism is so utterly wiped out that its very language is lost.

PROGRESS OF POPULATION IN ENGLAND AND FRANCE.—The movement of the population in France presents some interesting features, especially when compared with that of England. It appears that in the five years between 1861 and 1866 the population increased by 680,933, or less than one third (0.37) per cent per annum. In England and Wales the increase was one and a quarter per cent (1.23), or nearly four times as rapid as in France. At its present rate of increase 183 years would be required for the population of France to double itself. But this is not all: of the 680,933 additional in five years, 328,412, or nearly half, is town population; in 31 out of 89 departments there was an actual decrease. The length of life in France is improving, but the number of births continues abnormally small—no more now in a population of 38,000,000 than in 1800, when the population was only 27,000,000. The birth rate in France is 1 in 38; in England it is 1 in 29. The marriage rate is 1 in 127 in France; in England 1 in 113. The death rate appears to be nearly the same, or 1 in 44.

DR. LIVINGSTONE.—Mr. Young, of the Livingstone Search Expedition, entertained a large audience at the meeting of the Geographical Society on Monday night, with his report of the results of his journey and an interesting address, by which the written report was supplemented. What he said seemed to bring his hearers to the conclusion of Sir Roderick Murchison (which he expressed in a letter, being unable to be present through indisposition) and his own, that the great traveller is still alive. Mr. Young, in conclusion, said he trusted that the doctor would turn up in a few weeks more to set at rest all doubt. Sir Samuel Baker is still unsatisfied, though more hopeful than he was. He thought that, as Livingstone had been seen with only nine followers, it was almost impossible that he could get to Alexandria. He hoped, however, almost against hope, that they would hear of his return to Zanzibar. They had heard much of Dr. Livingstone; but, unfortunately, they had heard nothing from him. Let them, therefore, not suffer their spirits to grow too buoyant. For himself, last year he confessed that he had no hope of Livingstone's safety; but he had some hope now, because it had been proved that Moosa and the Johanna men did tell lies.

THE LOSS OF THE CHICAGO.—The Court of Inquiry sitting at Liverpool has delivered the following judgment:—"In reviewing the facts of this case, the Court feels bound to observe that the master displayed a certain degree of care and caution in the navigation of his vessel, which takes this disaster out of the category of those reckless losses which too frequently form the subject of its inquiry. But one prominent feature of this case cannot be overlooked. The master to whose care was intrusted the valuable ship and cargo thought fit to proceed, in a very dense fog, towards land, after obtaining soundings in 15 fathoms. Even admitting that he was in the position in which he supposed himself to be, and as, according to the courses said to be run, he might fairly have so concluded, he must be allowed the benefit of the admission. Still, the Court holds that he committed a default in proceeding further in shore in such weather, and still more in doing so without verifying his assumed position by another cast of the lead. A prudent commander in such circumstances would undoubtedly have kept his ship's head off shore till the weather cleared up. For this default the Court feels bound to suspend the master's certificate; but, having regard to certain extenuating circumstances which presented themselves to the Court in the narrative of the voyage, as given in the evidence, the sentence of the Court is that the certificate of Mr. William M'Nay be and is hereby suspended for the short period of six calendar months from this date."

THE AMERICAN DEMAND FOR ARBITRATION.—The question now at issue between the two Governments is wholly unfitted for the proposed mode of settlement. Arbitration deals with facts, not with law; and therefore the question whether the British authorities did or did not act as promptly as they were bound to act with reference to the escape of the Alabama might very properly be determined in that way. But the question whether they were justified in attaching a particular meaning to a particular formal act of a foreign Government belongs altogether to the region of law, and an arbitrator is no more qualified than a common jury would be to pronounce a verdict upon it. If there were any recognised tribunal of international jurisprudence, it might properly be asked to give a decision. In the absence of such a tribunal, we may very well be content with the judgment of the Supreme Court of the United States, which declares that "the proclamation of blockade is itself official and conclusive evidence that a state of war existed which demanded and authorised a recourse to such a measure." Of course, the "anti-British" party in the United States has derived great pleasure from Lord Stanley's refusal; but the same temper which leads Mr. Seward to disregard his own repeated admissions, to treat with contempt an axiom of international law, and to assert, in the face of facts, that on May 13, 1861, the British Government had no conclusive evidence of the existence of civil war in the United States, would probably induce him, if we descended to the lowest depth of submission, to demand a lower still. In this way the joy of the anti-British party could at most only have been deferred. There must come a time when a great Power can no longer, consistently with its own independence, go on heaping up useless concessions.—*The Chronicle*.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The Senate has passed the Army Organisation Bill by 128 votes to 1.

The *Moniteur* publishes M. Magne's report upon the financial condition of France. According to this statement, on Dec. 1, 1867, the floating debt amounted to 936,000,000f. In consequence of events beyond control, the receipts of the budget of 1867 show a deficit of 26,000,000f., as compared with the estimates. Adding to this the extraordinary credit voted by the Corps Législatif on May 31, 1867, of 158,000,000f., and the cost of the expedition to Rome, there is a total of 189,000,000f. necessary to cover the outlay for 1867. The report details various augmentations of expense which will be felt by the budgets of 1868 and 1869, and concludes that supplementary resources to the amount of 82,000,000f. will be required to be shared between those two years. The report points out that it is necessary to reform the war matériel and the fleet in the interest of the defence of the country and of the national honour. From reports submitted by the Ministries of War and Marine a sum of 187,000,000f. ought to be devoted to that object. It would, however, be illusory to suppose that these resources would suffice to cover every requirement, but as regards the war matériel every essential would be therewith met. The details of less urgent importance would be completed in proportion to the annual resources. The report concludes by proposing a loan of 440,000,000f., which would meet all exigencies. The funds in the army donation chest are not disposable. The loan will be negotiated by public subscription. The report proposes to divide the monthly payments of the loan into twenty instalments.

The responsible editors of ten Paris newspapers were tried, last Saturday, for publishing a summary of the debates in the Corps Législatif. They were found guilty and sentenced each to a fine of 1000f., or six months' imprisonment. M. de la Guérinière, in a letter in *La France*, looks on the sentence as implying an excessive and impracticable restriction, and is of opinion that it would be better to have absolute prohibition. He adds that, as regards the Government, the prosecution was an error which all sensible men deplore.

The *Moniteur du Soir* of Wednesday alludes to the peaceful and conciliatory dispositions which at the present moment seem to animate the various Powers; and advises the different Governments and peoples to lay aside all exaggerated ambition, and thereby to give pledges for the maintenance of peace, which is at once their interest and their duty.

The workmen of Roubaix have petitioned the Emperor to abolish the treaty of commerce with England, which, they say, is bringing on them distress and ruin.

SWITZERLAND.

A popular vote was taken on Sunday in the canton of Zurich on the question of the revision of the Swiss Constitution, when 47,776 votes were given for revision and 10,056 against it.

ITALY.

Prince Humbert, who was to have married the hapless Austrian Princess who lost her life by fire a few months ago, has now been formally betrothed to his cousin, the daughter of the Duchess of Genoa. The circle of the Italian Royal family, already exceptionally narrow, will therefore not be widened by the marriage of the heir-apparent to the Italian throne.

The Chamber of Deputies on Wednesday concluded the discussion on the provisional Budget, and voted an increased annual grant for the relief of the Roman immigrants—namely, from 524,000 to 550,000 lire.

The King has given dire offence by his appointment of the Marquis Gualterio to be Minister of the Royal Household. Some of the Piedmontese officers of the King's Civil List are said to have resigned in consequence of this appointment. Nor does the Parliament take to the Marquis much better. As far as it could, the Chamber of Deputies has shown its disapproval of the appointment.

There would seem to be some foundation for the reports recently current that the Bourbons are busy endeavouring to get up a reaction in Naples. In all human probability, there is no possibility of their success; but they seem to be resolved on harassing the Italian Government if they can.

THE NETHERLANDS.

The general elections to the new Second Chamber have resulted in the return of twenty-nine Ministerial candidates, of whom twenty-four were members of the former Chamber; and of thirty-three candidates of the Opposition, twenty-eight of whom belonged to the former Chamber. A second ballot is necessary in twelve cases, and is fixed to take place on the 4th and 5th of February.

SPAIN.

Letters from Aragon and Catalonia are unanimous in considering probable a speedy Carlist rising in those provinces in favour of the eldest son of Don Juan. They also state that the widow of Don Carlos has forwarded 40,000,000 reales to promote the movement.

A decree has been issued granting the Royal pardon to the persons under sentence for participation in the insurrection under General Prim. The only persons excepted from this pardon are military men who have not surrendered for trial. The trials of persons accused of having offended against the press laws are postponed, and deserters from the navy are pardoned.

PRUSSIA.

The King of Prussia recently received a deputation of Roman Catholics from Rhenish Prussia. In reply to their address his Majesty said:—"It is well known that my forefathers and myself have carefully respected religious equality, and this fact has been openly acknowledged by the head of the Catholic Church. In the policy pursued by my Government I shall continue to watch over the interests of my Catholic subjects and the dignity and independence of the Pope."

AUSTRIA.

The Emperor has appointed the Archduke Albrecht commander of the Austrian military forces, and imposed upon him the duty of inspecting the army, of organising it in a manner fit to take the field, and of submitting the requisite proposals on the subject to the Minister of War.

A circular has been dispatched by the Minister of the Interior to the chief officials in the provinces, announcing that as in future all members of the Administration are bound to swear to inviolably observe the fundamental laws of the empire, so also must those who have already been sworn now make a fresh declaration swearing fidelity to the new Constitution. Nobody is to be forced to make this declaration. It is not a mere formality, but a political act of national importance. Besides inviolable fidelity to the Emperor, there will be required from all functionaries an unconditional observance of the Constitution and fundamental laws. The Minister the more emphatically requires sincere devotion and stainless fidelity to the Constitution, since he is responsible for all acts of the internal administration. Treachery and hostility to the Constitution, he says, must be regarded as quite as grave a dereliction of duty as any other violation of the official oath. Mere indifference or neutrality to the Constitution is not sufficient. In conclusion, the Minister requires from the officials strict punctuality, quick transaction of business, a thorough emancipation from formalism, constant willingness in their communications with the people, disinterested impartiality, and the maintenance of their social position by an irreproachable private life; then will the Austrian officials be the most efficient interpreters of the constitutional ideas.

RUSSIA.

On Dec. 22, 1865, the Emperor Alexander issued a ukase according to which the estates of those Polish noblemen in the western provinces suspected of sympathy with the rebels were, within two years, to be sold to people of Russian descent. If the proprietors could themselves effect the sale, so much the better; if not, the authorities, at the expiration of the term fixed, were to act independently and dispose of the land at public auction. In put-

suance of this decree the estates to be included in the measure were marked out at the time; and, but few having been sold since, the rest are now being seized, to be dealt with as the law directs. The confiscated property is mostly situated in Lithuania, although the operation of the law extends to the whole of the western provinces. Those intervening between Russia and Poland Proper are inhabited by different races, the peasantry being either Lithuanian or Russian, the middle class chiefly Jews, and the landed nobility and their attendants Poles. Owing to this national mixture the Russian Government thought it feasible to exterminate the objectionable ingredient in the land, a process which could hardly have been, and indeed was not, attempted in the more homogeneous districts of ancient Poland.

TURKEY.

Last week two Turkish frigates left Constantinople for Crete with fresh troops and stores. On board one of the frigates was an Aide-de-Camp of the Sultan, the bearer of the firman granting the recent concessions.

THE UNITED STATES.

Mr. Stanton is exercising the functions of Secretary for War, and holding the necessary official intercourse with the other departments, but has not yet been officially recognised by Mr. Johnson.

The finance committee of the Senate has reported the bill re-enacting the Legal Tender Act. The House of Representatives has not yet concurred in the Senate bill, repealing, instead of suspending, Mr. McCulloch's authority to contract the currency. The bill goes back to the Senate.

Judge Wood's Court at Selma, Alabama, has been suppressed by military authority, on account of the refusal of the Judge to recognise negro jurors.

General Meade has removed the Controller of Georgia, and has appointed a military successor. The Georgia Convention has adopted an ordinance prohibiting imprisonment for debt, and has passed a resolution of thanks to General Meade.

OFFICIAL REPORT ON THE SHEFFIELD TRADES UNION OUTRAGES.

THE report of Messrs. Overend, Barstow, and Chance, the examiners deputed by the Trades Union Commissioners to inquire into the Sheffield outrages, has just been issued. After acknowledging the assistance rendered them by the chief constable of the borough and the local authorities, the examiners proceed to say:—

The first subject which engaged our attention was that of "rattening." Rattening is a mode of enforcing payment of contributions to and compliance with the rules of the union. The wheel-bands, tools, and other materials of a workman are taken and held in pledge until he has satisfied the society by payment of his arrears, or by submitting to the rules which he has infringed. At first it was denied that the unions connived at this practice, but we had not proceeded far with our investigation before it was admitted on all hands that rattening had been for a long time prevalent in the grinding trades, and in all trades connected with them. It is fair to the unions to say that in the majority of cases where the demands of the union have been complied with, and a payment of a small sum for the expense of rattening has been made, the property taken has been restored. Rattening is always done in the interests of the union, and very commonly by the direction of the secretary, who negotiates with the party rattened for the restitution of his property. In some cases a member of the union, without express authority, rattens another member who is known to have incurred the displeasure of the society, and takes his chance of having his act adopted by the union. Recourse is seldom had to the police to recover property so taken away, but application is almost always made to the secretary of the union immediately upon the loss of tools, &c., being discovered. The practice of rattening is well known to be illegal, and persons detected in illegally taking away property have frequently been convicted and punished. The excuse offered by the unions for this system is that, in the absence of legal powers, rattening affords the most ready means of enforcing payment of contributions and obedience to the rules of the union. Many articles of Sheffield manufacture require for their completion the labour of various classes of workmen. For example, the manufacture of a saw requires the work of the sawgrinders, the sawmakers, and the saw-handle makers. All these workmen form separate branches of the saw trade, and are in separate unions. These unions are, however, all amalgamated together for mutual support. In case of default by any member of any of the branches, or in case of a dispute with the masters, as the grinders' tools are the most easily abstracted, and as stopping the grinding stops the whole saw trade, the course commonly adopted is to ratten the grinders, although the dispute may be with the sawmakers or saw-handle makers; and, on the matter being arranged, the other branches indemnify the grinders for their loss of time and for the expenses incurred. An attempt is often successfully made to saddle the whole cost of the rattening, as well as the cost of supporting the men while out of employment, upon the master, even where he is no party to the dispute, on the ground that he ought to have compelled his workmen to comply with the rules of the union. The system of rattening has generally proved successful in effecting its object. If, however, the person rattened continues refractory, he commonly receives an anonymous letter warning him of the consequences of his obstinacy. If this warning is disregarded, recourse has been had to acts of outrage the nature of which will be understood from a perusal of the cases actually investigated by us.

The report then gives a summary of the facts which the examiners succeeded in bringing to light. Commencing with the Sawgrinders' Union, of which Broadhead was secretary, it states that, in 1853, on Easha Parker refusing to leave an employer who had two non-unionists in his service, his horse was hamstringed by three members of the union hired by Broadhead, and had to be killed. Some gunpowder was next laid at his door and exploded, though, happily, causing little damage. On the night of Whit Sunday, 1854, he was aroused by stones being thrown at his house, and on going out he was thrice fired at, his right arm being permanently disabled. This outrage was also instigated by Broadhead, the money being drawn from the funds of the union, and one of the perpetrators was shortly afterwards sent to America, Broadhead finding the money. In 1857 James Linley, for keeping a number of apprentices, was wounded with an air-gun, at Broadhead's instigation, and in 1859 a can of gunpowder was exploded at the house where he lodged, after which two men, hired by Broadhead, tracked him for five or six weeks, until they found an opportunity of shooting him with an air-gun, from the effects of which he died. Four other outrages were committed in the same year at Broadhead's instigation, gunpowder being exploded in the house of Samuel Baxter for keeping aloof from the union; the works of Joseph Wilson, who refused to employ unionists, being blown up; Wilson's house being likewise blown up; and a like attempt being made on the premises of Messrs. Frith, who employed non-unionists. In some of these cases injuries, though not fatal ones, resulted. A fifth outrage was contemplated—viz., the shooting of John Halliwell, who had left the union and worked for less than scale prices; but, through misinformation of his whereabouts, it was delayed and ultimately abandoned. In 1860 Broadhead directed an attempt to blow up the premises of Messrs. Wheatman and Smith, who had introduced machinery for grinding saws. In 1861 a can of gunpowder was exploded in the warehouse of Harry Holdsworth, who employed non-unionists, the Jobbing Grinders' Union sharing in the expense, though they withdrew from the amalgamated unions three years afterwards. In 1863 an attempt was made to blow up the wheel of Messrs. Reaney. In 1866 gunpowder was exploded in the cellar of Thomas Fearnough, who had twice left the union and the second time had not rejoined it, and who worked with his own tools against their rules, the Sawgrinders' and Saw-handle Makers' Unions sharing the expense, and a reward of £1100 failing to lead to detection. The Examiners, in closing the frightful catalogue of crimes, point out that the commission of the outrages in the interest of the trade was well known to the union; and that, although in one or two instances individual members had protested against them, nothing like an investigation had been demanded, nor had there been any general vote of condemnation of these acts until the case of Fearnough occurred, when public indignation was aroused, and then the outrage was denounced, and a reward was offered by the union for the detection of the offenders. The whole of the above offences were directed by Broadhead, and sums amounting to nearly £200 had been taken by him out of the funds of the union to pay the parties who committed them. Although these acts were not proved to have been directly authorised by the union, there must have been a knowledge, or, at all events, a well-grounded belief, among its members that they were done, not only in the interests of their society, but through the agency of some one or

more of their governing body; and the Examiners report that all the above outrages were promoted, encouraged, and connived at by the Sawgrinders' Union, and that one of them was promoted and encouraged by the Sawgrinders', Sawmakers', and Saw-handle-makers' unions.

Turning to the Filegrinders' Union, the report mentions two outrages which, from the admissions of the secretaries, were evidently encouraged and connived at by the union. Several outrages promoted by the Sickle-grinders' Union were directed at Christopher Rotherham, whose men had refused to pay to the society; and, as one of them exposed his family to imminent peril, he was glad to purchase safety by making his men join the union. The books of this body were burnt or mutilated to conceal acts which might have implicated them. The Forkgrinders' Union in 1859 resolved that only ten approved masters should be worked for, and William Mason, who worked for an unsanctioned employer, was severely assaulted by unionists, and received burns from the explosion of powder placed in his trough. Powder was also placed in the troughs of two other men who were obnoxious for a like reason, and the books of the society were destroyed, the obvious inference being that this union was implicated in the outrages. The Brickmakers' Union next comes under review, and it is charged with complicity in destroying 17,000, and in another case 40,000, bricks, in stabbing a horse and a cow, and in attempts to blow up a house and to burn a haystack. Their books were destroyed, the secretary admitting that money was paid by the union for these outrages. The Fendergrinders' Union are chargeable with assaults, threatening letters, and the explosion of powder in the house of a non-unionist, shockingly burning his wife and killing another woman. This diabolical outrage was concerted by members of the union and paid for out of its funds, the accounts being "cooked" in order to conceal the fact. Samuel Sutcliffe, who had taken work during a strike, was brutally assaulted at the instigation of the secretary of the Pen and Pocket Blade-grinders' Union, the books being destroyed to conceal the payment of £5 for the "job." The Scissor-forgers' Union is responsible for the destruction in several cases of the tools of outsiders, the books being "cooked" and mutilated. The Scissor-grinders' Union connived at the "rattening" of an obnoxious manufacturer in December, 1866. The Edge-tool Forgers' Union obliged an employer to dismiss a clever London workman, whom they refused to admit into their society, and who was seriously assaulted by two of their members. With regard to the scythe-grinders, Messrs. Tyzack and Sons have sustained considerable damage to property in consequence of disputes with the union, and a member of the firm was waylaid and shot at, one of the bullets passing through his hat. The Nailmakers' Union has encouraged one or two outrages. With respect to two other trades, the edge-tool grinders and the iron-workers, outrages have been committed; but the evidence did not prove that the unions were accessory to them.

Having thus set forth the principal outrages more or less traceable to the various unions, the report mentions the fact that within the last ten years, according to a local estimate, 166 other cases of rattening, and twenty-one of sending threatening letters have come before the Sheffield magistrates, a very small proportion, however, of the persons rattened venturing to give any information in the matter. Most of the outrages which the Examiners investigated were brought before the justices; but although in several cases large rewards had been offered for the detection of the perpetrators, the offenders, with two or three exceptions, remained unknown up to the period of this inquiry. The Examiners believe there are about sixty trades unions in Sheffield, of which twelve have promoted or encouraged outrages within the meaning of the Trades Union Commission Act of last year. On the other hand, there has not occurred within the last ten years any act of intimidation, outrage, or wrong promoted, encouraged, or connived at by any association of employers. They point to the year 1859 as the one in which outrage was most rife, and remark with pleasure that it has diminished since that time. They abstain from making any observations upon the restraints and general policy of trades unions, though these points were frequently brought before their notice, on the ground that they are under the consideration of the Royal Commissioners. They close their report with the expression of their belief that, but for the expectation of indemnity, no conclusive evidence would have been elicited touching the system of crime now disclosed; and they state that they have consequently granted certificates to all the witnesses who appeared to make a full and true disclosure of the offences in which they had been implicated.

"PECULIAR PEOPLE."—A new sect has arisen in Essex calling themselves "The Peculiar People." One of their tenets is that medical assistance shall never be called in for "a Peculiar person." When "a Peculiar person" is sick, the elders of the sect pray to the Lord that the sick person may recover, anoint him, give him a glass of grog, and then leave the matter in the Lord's hands. They conceive that the texts "Cursed is he that trusteth in man" and "Trust not an arm of the flesh" clearly point out the impropriety of invoking medical aid. Lois Wagstaffe, "a Peculiar baby," aged fourteen months, was seized last week with inflammation of the lungs. The elders of the sect were called in, and they anointed the child, gave it brandy-and-water, and prayed over it, but did not call in a doctor. "The Peculiar baby" died, as might have been expected, under this treatment; an inquest was held over its body, and the jury returned a verdict of manslaughter against its parents. Two members of the sect, hatters, became bail for them; and an elder explained that in Essex, where a good many "Peculiar babies" died under similar circumstances, Mr. Codd, the Coroner, after consulting with the Recorder, had decided that when the parents believed sincerely in the Lord it is not manslaughter. Mr. Payne, the City Coroner, said that he differed from Mr. Codd, that he believed the age for miracles is past, and that whenever a case of the kind comes before him he shall send the parents to Newgate. The parents have since been tried, and acquitted, the evidence not being sufficient to prove that the death of the child was the result of the want of medical aid.

PAUPERISM.—The November return of the Poor-Law Board shows a gradual increase of the pressure upon the rates. At the end of September the number of persons in receipt of relief in England and Wales was 3·5 per cent more than at the corresponding period of 1866; at the end of October the increase over the previous year had risen to 4·3 per cent; at the end of November it had become 5·6 per cent. The November return shows an increase generally throughout the kingdom, ranging, commonly, from 2 per cent to 6 per cent, but much more marked in the north-western division and in the metropolis. In the former, consisting of Lancashire and Cheshire, there was at the end of September an increase of only 3·7 per cent over 1866; but it had become 11·7 per cent at the end of November—the numbers relieved being 92,673 at the end of November, 1866; and 103,397 at the end of November, 1867. In the metropolis the increase over the number in 1866 was 11·4 per cent at the end of September, 10·3 per cent at the end of October, and 13·5 per cent at the end of November—the numbers in receipt of relief at these three dates being 117,549, 123,235, and 135,588; at the end of November, 1866, the number was but 119,497. In all England and Wales the numbers in receipt of relief at the end of the month of November were 1,068,823 in 1862, 940,887 in 1863, 913,085 in 1864, 864,622 in 1865, 882,364 in 1866, and 932,191 in 1867. But all the above numbers are from 3 to 4 per cent below the real numbers, owing to certain classes and certain parishes not being included in these monthly returns.

AERONAUTICAL EXHIBITION.—The council of the Aeronautical Society have decided upon holding an exhibition in London of objects connected with aeronautical science in the month of June. Arrangements have been made for the exhibition to be held at the Crystal Palace, where ample opportunity will be afforded for experiments. The importance and interest of some of these experiments are indicated by the fact that the Shipwrecked Mariners' Society have allotted £50 as a prize in connection with one of the objects of exhibition—namely, "the best form of kite, or other aerial arrangement or modification thereof, for establishing a communication from a wreck on shore or between two vessels at sea." The late very successful experiments in Paris, conducted by M. Giffard with a captive balloon, have suggested their repetition upon the forthcoming occasion, and when Mr. Giffard will probably prosecute further experiments, and an opportunity will be afforded to inventors to propose means for controlling ascent and descent without loss of gas or ballast. The objects for exhibition, and for which prizes will be offered out of the funds now being raised, are light engines and machinery, complete working aerial apparatus, models (working and stationary), plans and drawings, articles of interest commemorating previous experiments, kites or other similar apparatus proposed to be used in cases of shipwreck, traction, or in the attainment of other useful ends; paintings of landscape and cloud scenery as observed from a balloon. The interest excited among inventors in this and other countries has been manifested so strongly that, although the idea has only been made known through the members of the society, already many new inventions have been promised for exhibition. The display of light engines particularly is likely to be large, and further applications are being made to Mr. F. W. Brearey, the honorary secretary, at the Crystal Palace.

DISTRESS IN THE EAST-END.

A MEETING of considerable interest in connection with the distress now prevailing in the east end of London was held at Limehouse last Saturday afternoon. The advertisement by which it was convened described it as a meeting "of the unemployed of the shipyards of Cubitt Town, Millwall, and Poplar, to take their present position into consideration and to adopt such measures as may lead to renewed employment." Not only was all the space on the ground floor of Burdett Hall, the large building in which the meeting was held, crowded, but a gallery overhead was also filled to inconvenience, and many persons who could not obtain admission to the interior of the hall stood in the vestibule. It was estimated that from 1400 to 1500 working men were present. The great majority of them appeared to be either artisans or labourers of a better class than that to which the term "labourers" is generally applied. As in all large assemblies where a wide difference of opinion prevails, there were at this meeting some noisy and obstructive characters; but, on the whole, the conduct of the men did them great credit. They heard with patience propositions which they did not approve, and showed an anxiety that their own views should be submitted to the masters and the public in temperate language. Of course, there was much empty declamation. Burns was quoted, to show that "a man's a man for a' that," and a good deal of time was lost in maintaining this and similar propositions which no one seemed inclined to dispute. But from a cloud of irrelevant platitudes one or two important facts were brought to light which will convey to the public more information than has hitherto reached them on the subject of shipbuilding in the Thames and its present depressed state, as compared with the work doing on the Tyne, the Wear, and the Clyde. It appears that for many years shipbuilding has not been so slack in the Thames yards as it is at present; but, to say the least, things are not so bad in the north of England, and at this moment there are 115,124 tons of iron shipping being built on the Clyde as against 82,000, the number of tons in process of manufacture there at the same period of last year. It is clear, therefore, that the yards in Cubitt Town, Millwall, and Poplar are not all but closed because there are no ships to be built, but because the work has gone elsewhere. And why is this? Because it is done cheaper elsewhere. But this raises a second question, to which the masters give one answer and the men another, and a contrary one. The former say, "We cannot take contracts at the prices accepted on the Tyne, the Wear, and the Clyde, unless the men accept a lower rate of wages than we were able to pay them at a time when orders were so numerous that we could succeed in securing them at higher prices than will be paid now." The men say, "You could afford to take the contracts on the terms accepted in the north of England and in Scotland, and still pay us the wages we have been in the habit of receiving. These wages are as low as they ought to be, and less would not be sufficient to support a working man and his family in London." The chairman of this meeting called upon the men to put forward some distinct proposition as to doing work at a reduced price; but this invitation was not responded to. Nay, further; an artisan who obtained more applause than any other of the speakers, having drawn a comparison between the system of payment on the Clyde and that which has prevailed in the Thames, to the disadvantage of the latter, the chairman asked him to propose a resolution pledging the mechanics of the East-End to accept the same wages as those paid in Scotland and the north of England. A compliance with this request was at once declined. Mr. W. M. Bullivant, one of the secretaries of the East London Central Relief Committee, stated that he was authorised to give an immediate order for two ships of 1000 tons each, if they could be built in the East-End on something like the same terms as those which they could be contracted for elsewhere. The object of the persons who made the offer was to relieve the distress in that part of London, and he asked the men to say at what price they would consent to work on those two ships. There was no response, and Mr. Bullivant subsequently requested the men to state whether they would agree to the work being taken at £5 a ton. It may be well to explain that the tonnage referred to is that of the finished, ironwork, and not that of the ship herself. There was no direct answer to this second proposal either; but the principal spokesman of the artisans expressed his belief that if the masters showed the men that no more than a certain maximum rate of wages could be paid consistently with allowing the employers a fair profit "the men would meet them." All the workmen who spoke denied that it was the rate of wages which prevented the masters from taking contracts at a lower rate than they profess to be able to do. It was admitted that coal and iron are dearer here than in the north. But it was alleged by more than one of the speakers, and apparently with the unanimous concurrence of the workmen, that a vicious "middleman" system was at the root of the real evil; that, as a rule, the shipbuilders on the Thames did not deal directly with the workmen, but indirectly through one, and in some cases several, sub-contractors; the result of this system being that the price charged to the person giving the order for the ship must be higher, while the workmen are cheated of their rights. It is stated that in certain of the Thames yards this system is not in operation, but it would have been satisfactory to the public if some of the employers had met the general charge either by a denial that any such system exists or an explanation to show that its effects are not such as have been described. As, however, a committee of workmen has been appointed to confer with the masters, an opportunity will be afforded to each party to put the public in possession of the whole of a case which was only partially opened on Saturday, but which even the uninitiated in dockyard work may already perceive involves a grave charge. After reading the report of this meeting, people will be anxious to learn whether it is to the action of the masters or that of the men we are to ascribe the fact that work is leaving the East-End yards, while appeals are being made to the charity of the public for the mechanics and labourers thus thrown out of employment.

BORN SIX HOURS TOO LATE.—A curious case has been decided in the Court d'Angers, France. According to the terms of French law, the child of a widow, if born 300 days after her husband's death, is considered as legitimate. Madame Mercier, a widow, pleaded for the recognition of her son, born 300 days and six hours and a half after the decease of her husband. The decision of the court was that the child was illegitimate. This decision prevents the child from inheriting his share of M. Mercier's property which he would otherwise have claimed.

TRIUMPH OF THE WING—THE FRIGATE-BIRD.

(From *Michel's "L'Oiseau."*)

THE black hour passes, day reappears, and I see a small blue point in the heaven. Happy and serene region, which has rested in peace far above the hurricane! In that blue point, and at an elevation of ten thousand feet, royally floats a little bird with enormous paws. A gull? No; its wings are black. An eagle? No; the bird is too small.

It is the little ocean-eagle, first and chief of the winged race, the daring navigator who never furls his sails, the lord of the tempest, the scorner of all peril—the man-of-war or frigate-bird.

We have reached the culminating point of the series commenced by the wingless bird. Here we have a bird which is virtually nothing more than wings, scarcely any body—barely as large as that of the domestic cock—while his prodigious pinions are 15 ft. in span. The great problem of flight is solved and overpassed, for the power of flight seems useless. Such a bird, naturally sustained by such supports, need but allow himself to be borne along. The storm bursts; he mounts to lofty heights where he finds tranquillity. The poetic metaphor, untrue when applied to any other bird, is no exaggeration when applied to him: literally he sleeps upon the storm.

When he chooses to oar his way seriously, all distance vanishes: he breakfasts at the Senegal; he dines in America.

Or, if he thinks fit to take more time, and amuse himself en route, he can do so. He may continue his progress through the night indefinitely, certain of reposing himself. Upon what? On his

huge motionless wing, which takes upon itself all the weariness of the voyage; or on the wind, his slave, which eagerly hastens to cradle him.

Observe, moreover, that this strange being is gifted with the proud prerogative of fearing nothing in this world. Little, but strong and intrepid, he braves all the tyrants of the air. He can despise, if need be, the pygargue and the condor: those huge unwieldy creatures will with great difficulty have put themselves in motion when he shall have already achieved a distance of ten leagues.

Oh! it is then that envy seizes us, when, amid the glowing azure of the tropics, at incredible altitudes, almost imperceptible in the dim remoteness, we see him triumphantly sweeping past us—this black, solitary bird, alone in the waste of heaven: or, at the most, at a lower elevation, the snow-white swallow crosses its flights in easy grace!

Why dost not thou take me upon thy pens, O king of the air, thou fearless and unwearied master of space, whose wondrously swift flight annihilates time? Who more than thou is raised above the mean fatalities of existence?

One thing, however, has astonished me: that, when contemplated from near at hand, the first of the winged kingdom should have nothing of that serenity which a free life promises. His eye is cruelly hard, severe, mobile, unquiet. His vexed attitude is that of some unhappy sentinel doomed, under pain of death, to keep watch over the infinity of ocean. He visibly exerts himself to see afar. And if his vision does not avail him the doom is on his dark countenance; Nature condemns him, he dies.

On looking at him closely you perceive that he has no feet; or, at all events, feet which, being palmate and exceedingly short, can neither walk nor perch. With a formidable beak, he has not the talons of a true eagle of the sea. A pseudo-eagle, and superior to the true in his daring as in his powers of flight, he has not, however, his strength, his invincible grasp. He strikes and slays: can he seize?

Thence arises his life of uncertainty and hazard—the life of a corsair and a pirate rather than of a mariner—and the fixed inquiry ever legible on his countenance: "Shall I feed? Shall I have wherewithal to nourish my little ones this evening?"

The immense and superb apparatus of his wings becomes on land a danger and an embarrassment. To raise himself he needs a strong wind and a lofty station, a promontory, a rock. Surprised on a sandy level, on the banks, the low reefs where he sometimes halts, the frigate-bird is defenceless; in vain he threatens, he strikes; for a blow from a stick will overcome him.

At sea, those vast wings, of such admirable utility in ascent, are ill-fitted for skimming the surface of the water. When wetted, they may over-weight and sink him. And, thereupon, woe to the bird! He belongs to the fishes, he nourishes the mean tribes on which he has relied for his own behoof: the game eats the hunter, the ensnarer is ensnared.

And yet, what shall he do? His food lies in the waters. He is ever compelled to draw near them, to return to them, to skim incessantly the hateful and prolific sea which threatens to engulf him.

Thus, then, this being so well-armed, winged, superior to all others in power of flight and vision as in daring, leads but a trembling and precarious life. He would die of hunger had he not the industry to create for himself a purveyor, whom he cheats of his food. His ignoble resource, alas! is to attack a dull and timorous bird, the

noddy, famous as a fisher. The frigate-bird, which is of no larger dimensions, pursues him, strikes him on the neck with his beak, and constrains him to yield up his prey. All these incidents transpire in the air: before the fish can fall he catches it on its passage.

If this resource fail, he does not shrink from attacking man. "On landing at Ascension Island," says a traveller, "we were assailed by some frigate-birds. One tried to snatch a fish out of my very hand; others alighted on the copper where the meat was being cooked to carry it off, without taking any notice of the sailors who were around it."

Dampier saw some of these birds, sick, aged, or crippled, perched upon the rocks which seemed their sanatorium, levying contributions upon the young noddies, their vassals, and nourishing themselves on the results of their fishing. But in the vigour of their prime they do not rest on earth; living like the clouds, constantly floating on their vast wings from one world to the other, patiently awaiting their fortune, and piercing the infinite heaven—the infinite waters—with implacable glance.

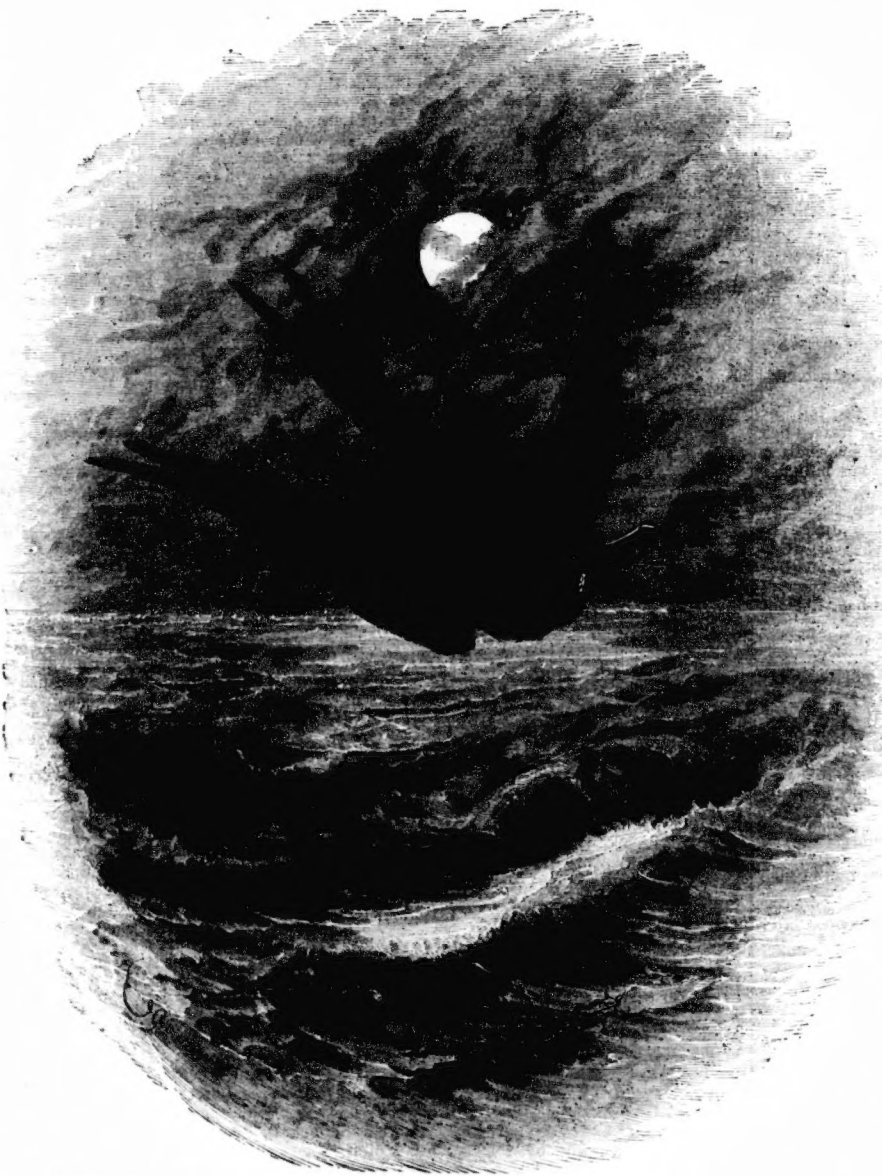
The lord of the winged race is he who does not rest. The chief of navigators is he who never reaches his bourne. Earth and sea are almost equally prohibited to him. He is for ever banished.

Let us envy nothing. No existence is really free here below, no career is sufficiently extensive, no power of flight sufficiently great, no wing can satisfy. The most powerful is but a temporary substitute. The soul waits, demands, and hopes for others:—

Wings to soar above life:
Wings to soar beyond death!

FIRE AT SANDHURST MILITARY COLLEGE.

At a quarter-past one o'clock on Wednesday morning, Jan. 22, a fire was discovered at Sandhurst College, in one of the rooms occupied by Mr. Davies, Quartermaster, in the centre of the left wing of the officers' quarters. The staff sergeants, servants, and others employed at the college, proceeded to render every assistance in extinguishing the flames. The two engines belonging to the college were brought into requisition; but they were found to be of very little service, and a messenger was at once dispatched to Aldershot for assistance. Two engines and the fire brigade, under the direction of Mr. Douglas, at once started for Sandhurst, where they arrived within one hour of the first alarm being given, quickly followed by a detachment of the 68th Light Infantry. During this time General Sir George Augustus Wetherall, K.H., G.C.B., governor of the college, Major Farmer, Major Rosser, Major Bowlby, Rev. E. J. Rogers, Mr. Roberts, and other officers, arrived at the scene of the fire, and did all they could in trying to keep the flames confined to the centre building. On the arrival of the Aldershot fire brigade the flames were spreading rapidly, extending on the right and left to premises occupied by Captain Hilton, Paymaster, and Major Bowlby. It was then discovered that there was only sufficient water to keep one engine going; but the fire brigade went bravely to work, and somewhat arrested the progress of the flames; whilst Mr. Douglas and others devoted their attention to the saving of property. Most of the valuables were got out of the several rooms, including a number of papers, &c., belonging to the Paymaster and Quartermaster; but it is rumoured that a bond for £5000 is missing. About four o'clock the roof began to fall in, and the flames burst forth afresh; but, by the strenuous efforts of the brigade, the fire was got under shortly before six o'clock next morning. The amount of damage is immense, the whole left wing being entirely destroyed. Great complaint is made as to the inadequacy of the protection against fire in the college, there being only two old-fashioned engines kept on the premises; in addition to which there is an insufficiency of water. The rain fell in torrents the whole of the night; but Sir George Wetherall and the other officers remained at their posts until the flames were nearly subdued.



"TRIUMPH OF THE WING—THE FRIGATE BIRD."—(FROM MICHELET'S "L'OISEAU.")



THE ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE AT SANDHURST AFTER THE LATE FIRE.

THE LATE MR. CHARLES KEAN.

MR. CHARLES KEAN, whose death we recorded in our last week's Number, was the second but only surviving son of the famous Edmund Kean, and was born, Jan. 18, 1811, at Waterford, where his father was then performing. At that time the fortunes of the family were at a low ebb, but in 1814 the great tragedian obtained an opening in London, and from that day the success of his professional career was decided. His son Charles was sent first to a preparatory school, and afterwards to Eton, whence he was removed in consequence of a change which came over his father's fortunes. Having declined an East India appointment offered to him by the late Mr. Calcraft, M.P., unless he could see an adequate maintenance secured to his mother, who was in broken health and separated from her husband, Charles Kean at once accepted an engagement for three years under Mr. Price at Drury Lane. He appeared for the first time upon the boards, on Oct. 1, 1827, as Young Norval, in Home's tragedy of "Douglas." His first appearance was not encouraging; indeed, his performance was condemned by the press. However, instead of despairing, he resolved to persevere in his efforts; appearing during the season from time to time as Norval, as Selim in "Barbarossa," as Frederick in "Lovers' Vows," and as Lothaire in "Adelgitha,"—but without creating a very favourable impression. Thus disappointed, he resolved to try his chances in the provinces. Whilst performing in Glasgow, in October, 1828, he had the satisfaction of being reconciled to his father, who consented to play Brutus to his Titus for his son's benefit. The house was crowded to excess, and the receipts amounted to nearly £300. Having once more tried his luck at Drury Lane with no better success than before, he revisited the provinces, and acted in conjunction with his father, in Dublin and Cork, appearing as Titus, Bassanio, Wellborn, Iago, &c. In the following October he acted Romeo to Miss F. H. Kelly's Juliet, at the Haymarket; and undertook the part of Sir Edward Mortimer in "The Iron Chest." For the first time he had now the satisfaction of seeing his performance commended by the London press. Mr. C. Kean now resolved to try his fortune in America, and accordingly appeared in New York as Richard III. in September, 1830. His reception there was cordial in the extreme. He subsequently appeared, with increasing effect, as Hamlet, Sir Edward Mortimer, and Sir Giles Overreach, and returned to England, at the age of twenty-two, with an established reputation. He was at once engaged by M. Laporte at Covent Garden on liberal terms; but his success was not encouraging. Once, and once only, in London, did the father and the son appear upon the boards together, at Covent Garden, in "Othello," March 28, 1833, as the Moor and Iago, Miss Ellen Tree sustaining the part of Desdemona. The failure of Edmund Kean's powers whilst performing, and his subsequent death, are matters of dramatic history. After a short visit to Hamburg, in which Miss Ellen Tree was one of the company, Mr. Charles Kean again made a provincial tour, attended with most satisfactory results. His efforts had always been greeted in Dublin with characteristic warmth. The example of that city was speedily followed by Edinburgh, as well as Manchester, and other large towns in England, and he then presented the singular instance of an actor without the prestige of London



THE LATE MR. CHARLES KEAN.

popularity, proving in the "provinces" a most attractive "star." In 1837 he courteously declined an offer from Macready to join his staff at Covent Garden. About the same time he closed with an offer from Mr. Bunn to act for twenty (afterwards extended to forty) nights at Drury Lane, with a salary of £50 per night. His appearance as Hamlet, on Jan. 8, 1838, was a triumphant success. His reputation was now fairly made, and his society was courted by the great and distinguished of all professions. On March 30 he was entertained at a public dinner in Drury-lane Theatre, and was presented with a silver vase, of the value of £200,

During this, his first important engagement in London, he appeared in only three characters—Hamlet, Richard III., and Sir Giles Overreach. Her Majesty, who was present on the first night of Richard III., commanded the manager to express to Mr. Kean her approbation of his performance. In June, 1839, after appearing at the Haymarket with equal success, he went on a second tour to America. Returning to England in 1840, he resumed his place at the Haymarket, and also his provincial tours. In January, 1842, whilst at Dublin, he married Miss Ellen Tree, a union by which he gained an invaluable coadjutor in his profession. In 1843 Mr. Kean resumed his engagement with Mr. Bunn at Drury Lane, and in 1845, in conjunction with his wife, once more embarked for the United States. Whilst there they reproduced, on a splendid scale, the historical tragedies of "King John" and "Richard III.," but the effect was lost on the utilitarian mind of our Transatlantic cousins. After his return to England he made another successful tour in the provinces, and appeared during more than one season at the Haymarket. Mr. Kean was intrusted, in 1849, with the task of managing the Christmas theatricals for her Majesty at Windsor Castle. In 1850 he became the manager of the Princess's Theatre. Here he acquired further popularity by those splendid revivals of Shakspeare's historic plays, in connection with which his name and that of his wife will be long remembered—"Henry VIII.," "Hamlet," "Richard III.," &c., exhibited with the scenery, costume, and historical details of the respective epochs, which greatly aided the spectator in viewing the events represented on the stage in the light of history in action. He resigned his lesseeship of the Princess's Theatre at the close of the season of 1860; since which time Mr. and Mrs. Kean have accepted short engagements in London and the provinces. A second and more valuable testimonial was presented to Mr. Charles Kean, in the summer of 1861, by the hands of Mr. Gladstone on behalf of his admirers. In 1863-5 he and Mrs. Kean visited Australia and California, performing with great success.

Shortly after their return to this country Mr. Kean was taken dangerously ill, and, after lingering for several months, died in London on the 22nd ult. Mrs. Charles Kean has received from the Queen a letter which expresses in the most gracious terms the sympathy awakened in her Majesty's mind by the terrible loss Mrs. Kean has sustained.

'THE UNION OF THE GRETA AND TEES.'

Not a bright, soft, dreamy scene, with a glowing, deep Italian sky overhead, and a sleepy hush in the air that lulls the soul to rest as though it were suddenly made partaker in the things that belong only to the senses; not a cloudless, windless, deadly-lovely day, with no whisper in the trees and no talking ripple on the stream; not a burning autumn afternoon, with a sense of present stillness, but suggestive of the bursting of the great purple pall of cloud that hangs beyond the glittering glory of the west, and of a scathing, fiery storm to come: none of these, but a thoroughly English scene, and a genuine Yorkshire day, with great heights and avenues of cloud, through the long vistas of which the glory of the heavens seems to shine from endless heights, suggesting boundlessness far more than a mere vault of blue. The hurrying scud has motion



"JUNCTION OF THE GRETA AND THE TEES."—(FROM THE PICTURE BY PAUL SAPPILL, IN THE EXHIBITION OF THE OLD SOCIETY OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOURS).

too; and, as its fleecy billows are reflected in the plashing stream that rushes onward to the sea, the crisp wind joins cloud and spray in a sort of harmony, as though in the union of those two streams henceforward to go on in company, something might be prefigured of all created things. There is not only rest but strength in such a scene as this—the true rest of the soul; not that sloth wherein energy is lulled asleep, but the breathing-time of the athlete who stands to recover strength. For the weary and despairing who fall altogether out of the battle and think they have fought their fight, there is more of hope and the whisper of a new heaven and a new earth in this homely place than in many a more pretentious scene. The artist, whose home is, we believe, in Guernsey, seems to have caught some inspiration from the grey granite crags and rockbound shore of that tight little island, and to have gone lovingly to see the place where the two Yorkshire streams celebrate their union. He has been like an invited guest to that marriage of the rivers, and has registered it for us in a picture that we shall not easily forget.

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SHIPBUILDING ON THE THAMES.

THERE seems to exist a good deal of mystification, wilful or otherwise, as to the causes of the stagnation in the shipbuilding industry of the Thames. The employers allege that the high rate of wages demanded by the operatives is at the root of the mischief; while the workmen, or those who put themselves forward to speak on their behalf, charge the fault on the masters' desire of inordinate profits and on the system of middlemen or sub-contractors, which, it is said, obtains on the Thames. Now, though there may be some truth in the allegations of the men, it seems to us that the masters have on some points the best of the argument.

At the meeting held in Burdett Hall, last Saturday, the operatives were offered work in constructing ships at £1 per ton on the finished ironwork more than is being paid on the Clyde at this moment; and they failed to accept the offer. That, we think, is a strong point against them. If it will pay workmen on the Clyde to build iron ships (say) for £5 per ton, it will surely pay Thames workmen to do precisely the same work at £6. At all events, it does not stand to reason that shipowners will pay high prices on the Thames, merely for the sake of getting vessels built there, when they can get them constructed at a much less cost in at least half a dozen other places; and, consequently, Thames workmen have no alternative between accepting lower wages or getting no work. There appears to be a notion abroad among the Thames shipwrights and other high-class artisans connected with shipbuilding that they should never receive less than seven shillings per day, whether trade be good or bad; and as that is the maximum rate attained in the best time of the trade, it is, on the face of it, absurd to expect that this scale can be maintained now in a period of depression. It is alleged that working men cannot keep themselves and their families in London on a less sum than that named. Now, that may be true on the assumption that the style of living induced by prosperous times and good wages must be continued; and, could work be obtained on such terms, we should be glad to see the operatives in the enjoyment of even higher wages still. But that is precisely where the difficulty arises; business can not be obtained at the high rate, and, consequently, the choice is between reduced wages and a moderated style of living, or no work, no wages, and—pauperism. Which is preferable?

The shipbuilders on the Clyde manage to live—and in tolerable comfort, too—on from one shilling to one-and-sixpence per day, or from six to nine shillings per week, less than the Thames operatives demand; and, as this must make an immense difference in the cost of a ship, it is no wonder that there is plenty of work going on in the Clyde, and next to none on the Thames. There are now, it seems, at least 115,000 tons of shipping in course of construction on the Clyde, as against 82,000 tons at this time last year—that is, an increase of 33,000 tons. If this increase be calculated at £5 per ton, we have the astounding fact disclosed that no less a sum than £165,000 is now being distributed among persons engaged in a single branch of industry in the west of Scotland more than they enjoyed twelve months ago. That is a goodly increase. And is not such a prize worth some effort and some sacrifice to obtain? Had the Clyde shipbuilders merely held their own, and the Thames obtained the increment that has gone to the north, all the subscriptions received for the relief of East-End distress would have been

as nothing compared to the advantages obtained by honest labour. And the Clyde, be it remembered, is only one out of several places where the same thing has been going on to a greater or lesser extent. The Tees, the Tyne, the Humber, and the Mersey have all benefited by the decline of the Thames. The sooner the men of the Isle of Dogs and Millwall disabuse their minds of the notion that the laws of trade will accommodate themselves to their wishes and habits, the better it will be for them.

Another misconception that appears to prevail here is that London workmen are much superior to (say) Clyde workmen, and ought, therefore, to be remunerated at a higher rate. There never was a greater mistake. Let the matter be tested by results. Are better vessels produced on the Thames than elsewhere? Most assuredly not; and no unprejudiced person will for a moment affirm such a preposterous proposition. Finer ships, either steaming or sailing, never floated than those turned out on the Mersey and the Clyde; and, if river steam-boats may be taken as a test, the Thames is very far indeed behind the latter river. The Clyde river boats, plying between Glasgow and the various ports down the stream—such as Rothesay, Dunoon, Largs, and so on—are as much superior to the wretched tubs that ply both above bridge at London, and even as far as Gravesend, as are the Glasgow omnibuses to the confined, dirty, steamy hearses belonging to London omnibus proprietors. No; the Thames shipbuilders have no superiority of talent over their competitors elsewhere, and must, consequently, be content to do as their neighbours do and fare as their neighbours fare—at least, until a revival of trade enables them to obtain better terms.

Some of the remarks we have made above apply to employers as well as to employed, if it be true, as alleged, that the master shipbuilders of the Thames are not content unless they obtain much higher profits than those which satisfy their competitors elsewhere. Masters as well as men must submit themselves to the laws that govern trade, and accommodate their desires to circumstances. But it is difficult to believe that intelligent men, who must understand the conditions upon which business can be carried on, would wilfully keep extensive and costly plant idle, thereby losing both present profit and the interest on capital sunk, and, moreover, allow valuable material to deteriorate from lack of use, merely because such large returns as were wont to be received, or as they would like, cannot be obtained. They know well that a moderate return upon their capital is better than no return at all; nay, than an absolute loss, which they must sustain while their yards are empty and their plant unemployed; and they will, therefore, be glad to take work at reduced profits rather than have none.

It may be said, perhaps, that this reasoning is equally applicable to the men—that they would be willing to accept lower wages, if they could, rather than go without altogether. And this would be true were the workmen as free to act individually as the masters. But the truth is that they are not. The operatives are so bound up by trade rules, so completely under the thumbs of union secretaries, treasurers, and "trade managers" generally, and so hampered by pledges to each other, that they have no individual volition, but must do as their leaders bid them. And it is not the interest of those leaders, many of whom live, not by the labour of their hands, but by managing trade affairs, that any "bending to the blast," or accommodating themselves to circumstances, should take place among those they control. The leading speaker on the part of the operatives at the meeting in Burdett Hall was a certain Mr. Ronald, who boasted that he was himself in receipt of the maximum wage of seven shillings per diem; and he very magnanimously demanded the like rate for his compatriots. But it appears to us that Mr. Ronald was neither a competent witness nor a clean-handed advocate. This same Mr. Ronald, it seems, was out of work lately, and was then willing to accept thirty-four shillings a week, for the present, as he very wisely stipulated. But things have changed with Mr. Ronald. He is now in employment at seven shillings a day, or forty-two shillings a week, and, of course, opposes any reduction: is it unfair or unreasonable to infer that he does so lest he should himself suffer thereby? Like Mesty in Captain Marryat's novel, Mr. Ronald is ready to cry "Hang equality: I major-domo now!" It is not those men who are in work at full wages, with everything comfortable about them, but those who are out of work and starving on the parish dole or public charity, who should speak for the working men in the east of London. And they, we are persuaded, will be willing to abate their demands till the return of better times. In the language of their Scotch rivals, they will be content to "jouk and let the jaw gae bye,"—that is, stoop until the storm be past.

CHURCH EDUCATION IN NORTHUMBERLAND.—The school inquiry of the National Society, conducted parish by parish in Northumberland, has brought out the following results:—Returns have been sent in from all the parishes and ecclesiastical districts in the county except six. In 1866-7 there were in Church of England week-day schools 14,225 scholars, or 1 in 25.8 of the population of the county as estimated in December, 1866, by the Registrar-General; in 1866-7 there were 13,719 such scholars, or 1 in 24.2 of the entire population of the county at that time, thus showing a decrease in the proportion of the population in Church schools during the last ten years. In Church Sunday-schools in 1866-7 there were 9637 scholars; in 1865-7 there were 9372. In Church evening-schools there were in 1866-7 scholars numbering 650; in 1865-7 there were only 283. It is evident from the foregoing figures, that while there has been a positive increase in the number of week-day scholars in Church schools during the last ten years, yet compared with the increase in the entire population of the county there is a diminution. There are twenty-two parishes and ecclesiastical districts in the county which are destitute of Church, national, or parochial week-day schools, but of these only two are reported to be in actual need of such schools. In the remaining twenty cases it is proved by the returns that the Church of England children are very few, and that week-day schools, either Presbyterian or British and Foreign, and, in some instances, Roman Catholic in their constitution, exist in each case. Several large "colliery schools" in the county are not, strictly speaking, Church of England schools, and the same remark is true of some other schools which are connected with large works.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN has intimated her intention of contributing to the Leeds Exhibition of Works of Art a considerable number of pictures from the Royal collections, illustrative of the various schools, and other valuable works of art from Windsor Castle.

LORD WESTBURY has consented to take his seat at the judicial committee of the Privy Council, where the arrears of cases are very considerable.

LORD EGERTON OF TATTON has been appointed Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire in the room of the Marquis of Westminster, who has retired from the office.

COUNT MONTALEMBERT has completely recovered. He contributes to the new number of the *Correspondant* an article on the Polish patriot Zamoycki.

THE UNION of the duchies of Coburg and Gotha has been provisionally arranged.

THE POST vacated by the resignation of Sir John Rolit, as one of the Lords Justices of the Court of Appeal in Chancery, has been offered, it is said, to Sir Roundell Palmer.

THE LEGAL ARRANGEMENTS for the Keble College, at Oxford, were completed on Monday; and building operations will soon be commenced. The site is near the New Museum.

THE FIRST EDITION OF THE QUEEN'S DIARY, which consisted of 150,000 copies, is already sold off.

A YOUNG RUSSIAN LADY, aged twenty-four, has been invested with the degree of Doctor of Medicine by the University of Zurich.

A LADY IN FRANCE, who frequently gives liberal sums in charity without revealing her name to the public, has just forwarded to the Director of the Administration of Public Assistance 9400*l.* for distribution among poor people to aid them in paying their rent.

A MAN AT DETROIT has skated sixty consecutive hours for 500 dollars. Towards the last blankets had to be held up about him to keep the wind from blowing him over!

EDINBURGH was visited, on Friday week, by a violent gale of wind, which did a great deal of damage. The most serious occurrence, however, was the fall of a house in Duke-street, when four persons were killed.

MR. GEORGE FRANCIS TRAIN enjoys a popularity in Cork which appears to have induced him to prolong his stay there. He is cheered by the populace whenever he emerges from his hotel, and manifests his enjoyment of these greetings.

MR. J. F. MOULTON, of St. John's, is the senior wrangler at Cambridge this year. He is the son of a Wesleyan minister. A few years ago this honour was gained by the son of a Baptist minister—Mr. Aldis. The second wrangler is Mr. G. H. Darwin, of Trinity, the second son of the distinguished author of the "Origin of Species."

SHERIFF PARKINSON, in Dyersburg, East Tennessee, attempted to arrest an old man named Duncan, recently, when Duncan fired at Parkinson. Parkinson's son fired at and killed Duncan, Duncan's son fired at and killed Parkinson's son, and old Parkinson fired at and killed young Duncan.

A VIVANDIERE, who accompanied the armies of the first Napoleon, has just died in the Asylum of La Salpêtrière, at the age of 104. She went through the Russian campaign and was at Waterloo, and in the course of her long life encountered a thousand dangers. She retained her faculties to the last.

THE SCOTCH IRONFOUNDERS have unanimously resolved to dispense with the services of union men on and after this day (Feb. 1), until all the shops in the trade are opened free of all restrictions. There are about 1500 men connected with the union in Glasgow alone.

EMMA TOY, a domestic servant at Birmingham, being jealous of Emma Richetta, because of an ex-policeman's attentions to the latter, entered the workshop where she was employed and threw a quantity of vitriol in her face.

THE EAST INDIA RAILWAY between Bombay and Calcutta by Jubulpore runs through 1100 miles of longitude. The consequence follows that it is ten a.m. at the eastern end of the line when it is but nine a.m. at the western end; and the Indian Bradshaw-makers are quite puzzled as to what is to be done.

MR. PAYNE COLLIER has printed for private circulation "Broadside Black Letter Ballads printed chiefly in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries." The volume contains twenty-five pieces, including "The Northern Lord," "Story of Ill May-day," and the ballad on "Babbington's Conspiracy." The work is adorned with old woodcuts.

THE AUTHORITIES IN CUBA are engaged in obtaining a registry of slaves, as a preliminary to fixing the indemnity to be paid to their owners when emancipation shall be declared. All slaves not registered within a given time will be regarded as and declared free. It is also stated that the Cuban sugar crop will be an abundant one. The past two years have been disastrous to business men; but 1868 promises well.

THE AYR AND ALLOWAY BURNS CLUB has got into disgrace. It is in the habit of dining in the cottage where the poet was born on the anniversary of his birthday. This year that day fell on a Saturday, and it so happened that the succeeding Sunday was set apart in the parish for the communion service in the churches. In spite of this fact, the members of the club resolved, by a majority of one, not to delay their symposium in honour of the bard. For this they are being severely censured by their stricter neighbours.

INTELLIGENCE has been received from the Abyssinian captives to Dec. 16, at which period they were in good health. Menelek had retired without attacking Magdala. The troops at Senafe were in excellent health, but the mortality among the mules continued.

THE O'DONOGHUE, M.P., writes a letter to an Irish paper authorising his signature to be placed to an address to Mr. John Martin, against whom a prosecution is pending for his participation in the late funeral procession in Dublin. The O'Donoghue signs the paper "with the conviction that a more worthy representative of the national cause (than Mr. Martin) can nowhere be found."

AT OSNEY, in France, a nurse-girl in the employ of a farmer took an aversion to a little boy. One day his arm was broken, no one could ascertain how; on another occasion the boy had swallowed pills, and suffered greatly in consequence. Still, the girl was not suspected. Determined to get rid of him and so be relieved from service, she caused the poor boy to swallow a quantity of sulphate of copper, which killed him immediately.

SEVERAL THOUSAND POLES, from Lithuania, Volhynia, and Podolia, who were transported after the last rebellion, have been allowed to return, if not to their old home, which is to be entirely Russianified, at least to the kingdom of Poland proper. Being there without any means of support, they were lodged in barracks to prevent starvation in the streets. The Poles are collecting charitable contributions for their suffering kindred.

MR. GLADSTONE AND THE TRADES UNIONS.—A special meeting of the sub-committee of the trades delegates, to arrange the proceedings of the conference with Mr. Gladstone on Feb. 18, was held the other evening, at the Bell Inn, Old Bailey. The subject underwent a long discussion, during which the delegates reported as to the rules of their various societies, and several letters were read from various parts of the country giving information as to the rules and practices of some of the large trades in respect to apprentices, daywork, piecework, overtime, &c., these rules and practices differing materially from each other. It was eventually decided that the following questions should form the subject of the conference:—1, the limitation of apprentices; 2, the minimum standard of wages; 3, piecework and overtime; 4, the alleged action of trades unions in driving trade to foreign countries; 5, the practical advantages of trades unions. It was also agreed that one member of the deputation should be selected to speak to each of the above questions. It was also resolved that the eight delegates to form the deputation to Mr. Gladstone should be appointed at the next meeting of the committee, and that in the mean time every trade throughout the kingdom should be requested to inform the committee of its rules and customs with regard to the first three questions above enumerated.

EAST LONDON DISTRESS.—A meeting was held on Monday at the Cannon-street Hotel, to complete the organisation of the Central Executive Committee, the formation of which was resolved upon at the meeting on Tuesday last, presided over by Mr. Slater-Booth. On this occasion Mr. Corbett, the poor-law inspector for the East London district, was in the chair. Mr. R. Baxter, Captain Fishbourne, and Mr. Somerset Sanderson represented the East London Mission Committee, Mr. Scrutton the East-End Central Committee, Mr. Henry Kingscote and Mr. Cazenove the East-End Emigration Committee, the Rev. S. Hansard and M. J. Hapard the Bethnal-green Committee, Mr. Haygarth the Society for Relief of Distress, and the Rev. Mr. Rowell the Metropolitan District Visiting Society. The chairman proposed two alternative resolutions, both unsettling the compromise arrived at under Mr. Slater-Booth's mediation last week, and a very long discussion took place. The first resolution declared that all the committees should merge their members and funds into one committee; but this was objected to by the East London Mission Committee, who stated that their subscribers would not allow them to merge their large funds, but would require them to continue to direct their distribution. Ultimately the chairman put the second alternative resolution, declaring that the East-End Central and East-End Emigration Committees, with the Bethnal-green, Mile-end Old Town, and Shadwell Committees, should unite into one committee for relief of distress in Poplar, Limehouse, Mile-end Old Town, Bethnal-green, and Shadwell, and should ask the East London Mission Committee for money for those districts. On being put to the meeting, a very strong feeling was shown for Mr. Slater-Booth's resolution of last week, creating one executive committee to harmonise all their efforts, in which all the committees had declared themselves ready to concur while retaining their own control over their separate funds and districts; and Mr. Corbett's resolution was negatived by 15 to 12. The chairman then put the resolution by vote of each committee, and majority voted in its favour.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

"Is there anything whereof it may be said, this is new? It hath already been of old time which was before us." Thus wrote Solomon 2800 years ago, or thereabouts; and what he said truly then is in the main true now. These "Peculiar People" in Essex hold no new doctrines; they are simply the doctrines of old Calvinism, which, by-the-way, is much older than Calvin. "Faith without works" run to seed; or, say, pushed to its logical consequences. When we first began to make sanitary improvements in our towns, to get rid of and prevent cholera, there were thousands of pious people who shuddered at the idea. They called meetings for prayer; set, indeed, whole days apart for prayer, humiliation, and fasting, but denounced making drains and cleaning out cesspools, with a view to stopping the destructive march of cholera, as something awfully presumptuous. I remember hearing a town councillor denouncing the talk about removing cholera by drainage as something shocking. "It is the hand of God," said he, "come down upon us as the punishment of sin." So you see that the doctrine of the "Peculiar People" is no new thing under the sun, but hath already been; nor is it now confined to the "Peculiar People." The same thing, under various guises and in various shapes, lurks, I can assure you, still in respectable churches. I have said that this doctrine is older than the time of Calvin. It is older than Christianity, for really it is old fatalism, and that, perhaps, is as old as our race.

Neither is spiritual matrimony, to which Hepworth Dixon, with an amazingly loud flourish of trumpets, calls the attention of the world. Now, it is a delicate subject, and I will not go into it; but I may be allowed to notice that in the early Church, as far back as the second century, there was, as we know from Eusebius and Gibbon, something very much like this heresy; and again, 200 years ago, in France, amongst the Quietists, it appeared. M^{me}. de la Mothe-Guyon used to carry on the most passionate, fervid correspondence with her confessor, Father Lacombe, who became so spiritually enamoured with her that he never left her, but, in character of her director, followed her everywhere in her adventurous life, both in France and Savoy. M^{me}. Guyon, says Michelet, was "as pure in her imagination as she was disinterested in her motives;" and, being a woman of great strength of intellect and moral courage, she could pass the point where everyone had stopped through fear; but when weaker minds attempted to follow her they were wrecked in the tempestuous sea of passion. Poor Father Lacombe went mad.

I have discovered a literary larceny, albeit I am not an official, but only an amateur, detective. You have, in your literary critic, an official detective; and I must say he is a very clever officer. Would that Sir Richard Mayne had in his service a few detectives half as acute! You, of course, remember Byron's lines upon Kirke White:—

So the struck eagle, stretched upon the plain,
No more through rolling clouds to soar again,
Viewed his own feather on the fatal dart,
And winged the shaft that quivered in his heart.

The editor of my edition of Byron says, "This is one of the finest images in all Byron's works; whether quite originally his own I will not be bound to say." He doubts its originality. Well, it is not original; for in D'Arcy Thompson's "Sales Attici" there is a passage from Æschylus, thus translated:—"There is an old Libyan fable that an eagle struck with an arrow saw the winged portion of the shaft, and said, 'I am killed with feathers from my own wing.'" I have called this a discovery of mine; but the author of the "Sales Attici" must have remembered Byron's lines. There is, however, no note at the foot of the page to indicate that he did; and, as far as I know, no writer has pointed out the identity of Byron's poetic image with that in the old Libyan (African) fable.

I have received a note from a gentleman who signs himself "A Member of the Royal Institution," and dates from the Inner Temple. The note is long, but the pith of it is in the first half dozen lines. "Sir, I appeal to you, as one likely to take an interest in the matter, to know whether there be in existence outside the walls of the House of Commons any library or collection of Parliamentary returns, reports, &c., easily accessible to the general public?" To which I answer, None, except at the British Museum. There, of course, every Parliamentary paper is deposited; at least, I suppose so, but I never applied there for Parliamentary documents. I dare say they are there, but, I should say, hardly "easily accessible." The only two other libraries in which they may be found are those of the Commons and the Lords, and in both these all Parliamentary papers are easily accessible to members of both Houses, but not to strangers. It is a great shame that journalists and literary men generally cannot by right freely have access to these documents. Why should there not be a special library of Parliamentary documents, all duly arranged and indexed, open to all the world? I have heard it said that, on an application made to the Speaker of the House of Commons, and to the proper person at the House of Lords—who he is I do not know—any respectable library might have them. But where is any respectable library to put them? Their name is legion. The London Library, the largest subscription library that I know, could not take them. These books and papers would fill a house as large as that which the London Library now occupies. What ought to be done is this: Parliament, out of the public funds, should establish a public Parliamentary library; and, let my correspondent mark this, I am persuaded that Parliament would establish such a library if the literary men of England would join and bring to bear upon it all the weight of their influence. Indeed, the public press could alone obtain this boon were it so minded. I imagine that, if once the subject were brought before the House, the Government would take the question up willingly and carry out the design promptly; for it must strike everybody that, if only to secure the preservation of these documents, it would be good policy to have another Parliamentary library. Some of our most valuable Blue-books are out of print, and cannot be purchased—albeit, perhaps, half the number of copies went to the waste-paper dealers; for it is well known that many, if not most, of the members every now and then sell off their stock. They are obliged to do this, or they would be flooded out. Besides, the Houses of Parliament may be burnt down, and the books therein all destroyed. In that case, during the formation of a new library members would have no library to use.

To those who knew and respected the late Sir Culling Eardley—and their number is large—that was a sad paragraph which appeared in the evening papers of Monday informing the world that his son had been sentenced to eighteen months' hard labour as a punishment for the crime of bigamy. The late Sir Culling Eardley was a very good man—pious, upright, and generous. He belonged to the Church of England, and was a very zealous member of the Evangelical party in that Church, and liberally subscribed to all the institutions of that party, and even to those having kindred objects amongst the Dissenters. This scapegrace son of his was an awful trial to his father, squandering his wealth, disgracing his name, and gradually heaping upon him burdens of anxiety which at last quite broke him down. The mother of this unhappy man died in 1860. The family came from France. The name of it then was Lefevre; but on arriving here this name was changed to Smith—translated, I may say; for Lefevre means Smith. One wonders now why the French word was translated into English. But the family arrived here in the reign of Elizabeth; and at that time, no doubt, much of the old honour attached to the name of Smith survived. The name of Smith was retained till quite lately. The late Baronet kept it as long as he lived. It was the son that dropped the time-honoured patronymic. Was he ashamed of it? Better had been ashamed of the dishonour which he had done to it.

For several years past I have been accustomed to look out for the reports of the annual gatherings of the Brighton electors, at which the members for the borough give an account of their stewardship. Most autumnal meetings of this sort are great shams—a multitude of ignorant electors listening to mere platitudes and hollow insinuations; members flattering their voters, and voters in return greeting members with purchased applause. But the Brighton meetings are no shams, but realities. The Brighton constituency I take to be

the most Radical and honest of all the constituencies in the south of England. This is proved by its choosing honest and able members, and by its sternly putting aside all temptations to part with them so long as they do their duties well. Mr. White's speech, though not so elaborate as that which he delivered last year, was capital. There was a fine breezy air of independence in it. Mr. White never picks his way lest he should offend some Minister in *esse* or in *posse* from whom he has received or hopes to receive favours. Of few members can this be said. Here is a racy bit well worth reprinting:—

It was quite a study to note the language of Ministers; and full confidence in the ultimate result forbade one's protesting against the current Parliamentary slang or gloss by which cold-blooded craft was toned down to "temper and tact," reckless audacity became "fearless assertion," and unblushing mendacity only "fertility of resource," in the polite precincts of St. Stephen's.

And here is honest outspoken truth, to which, when I read it, I involuntarily cried, "Hear, hear!"—

As one of your representatives, I have bewailed seeing—in deep sympathy for the labouring poor—the millions of money, which might have given them more food, better homes, and an adequate education, thrown into the bottomless pit of naval and military mismanagement.

Many, if not most, people seem to be now of opinion that a small expedition of (say) from 1000 to 2000 men, as suggested some time ago, by Dr. Beke, I believe, among others, had we but known it sooner, would have sufficed to bring King Theodore to reason and obtain the release of the captives in Abyssinia as effectually as the large and costly armament now engaged in the work. Now, admitting that the course actually pursued was safer, and therefore wiser, in the state of our knowledge at the time the expedition was determined on, I would like to ask if it be not possible to act upon the other plan even yet, and to much greater advantage than ever? Colonel Merewether, we are told by the *Times* and other authorities, might have made a dash upon Magdala and Debra Tabor months ago, and delivered the captives, with a thousand well-armed and effective British soldiers. Well, we have now an army of close upon 10,000 men, well armed, equipped, and victualled, at Senafé, much nearer to the places we aim at than any point from which Colonel Merewether could have started before; and could not the Colonel or some other officer make the said "dash" now, with all the advantage that such powerful and comparatively near supports would give? I do not mean to say that this is possible now, any more than I would affirm that a like thing was practicable before. But it seems to me that if the small expedition plan was feasible at the commencement of the campaign, when we had no troops in Abyssinia, it is much more feasible now, when we have a powerful force there, and when Theodore's relations with his subjects and neighbours are at least no better than they were. Is not this idea, at least, worth attention?

I see it is stated, in the evidence given at Bow-street Police Court, that Barratt, the Fenian, was in London some months ago, and went about, armed with revolvers, seeking an opportunity to shoot Corydon, the informer. Might not this fact supply a clue to the murderers of poor M'Donnell, the guardsman, who, it was stated and believed at the time, was shot in mistake for Corydon? It would be easy for the police to ascertain whether Barratt's movements and other circumstances of time and place so cohere as to render it possible that he may have been concerned in the Bloomsbury murder as well as in the Clerkenwell outrage. If Barratt committed the one crime, he is capable of perpetrating the other, to do which, according to Mullany, he actually sought for opportunities. Have the police any notion of working this clue, or are they in possession of facts which satisfy them that Barratt could not have been concerned in both crimes?

RIMMEL'S VALENTINES.

A man to be envied is Mr. Eugène Rimmel. He lives in a perfect atmosphere of perfume; his very name is suggestive of sweet odours. But, more than this, he must be a great favourite with the ladies, whom he enables to add even to their attractions—to, as it were, gild the refined gold and paint the lily of their own native loveliness. Nay, more than that still, he must be the especial pet of the young ladies, for does he not provide for them the prettiest, daintiest, most elegant, and most love-suggesting and love-expressing valentines to be found anywhere? In fact, in Mr. Rimmel's hands the production of valentines attains the dignity of art, almost of high art. Year after year, about the beginning of February, there issues from the establishment of Mr. Rimmel quite a collection of gems in the valentine line; and year after year we have evidences of fresh ingenuity and taste in new designs, new devices, new patterns of valentines. There are now before me a selection from the valentines Mr. Rimmel has produced for 1868, which, as it seems to me, surpass all their predecessors. Indeed, though I am now considerably past the romantic period of life, and have long since abandoned "sighing like a furnace" and inditing sonnets to ladies' eyebrows, I am almost tempted, with these treasures at hand, to think myself young again, and take to patronising St. Valentine and helping to overwork the poor post-office clerks and letter-carriers by sending valentines in scores, as I did when my locks were black and curly. I am too far past that kind of thing, however; so I must content myself with recommending Mr. Rimmel's collection to those who are still in the "vaward of their youth" and the freshness of their maiden bloom. The only difficulty experienced in choosing will arise from the infinite variety and beauty of design contained in Mr. Rimmel's repositories. There are chaste devices of flowers, set in effulgent borders of white and silver, or resplendent in blue and gold, emblematic of Innocence, Affection, True Love, Remembrance, and so on. Then there are "St. Valentine's gloves;" and a dash of the comical is not absent, for we have a "ladye faire" and "gallant knight" presenting their hearts to each other, not merely metaphorically, but in very fact; while, of course, everywhere the mischievous urchin, Cupid, plays pranks with his bow and his arrow. But the most curious device, perhaps, is a "new heart barometer," or Love's compass, the needle of which points to the various degrees of emotion, from "ardent love" at the South Pole to "violent hatred" at the North, the intermediate stages being affection, interest, compassion, dislike, coldness, indifference. A happy man, too, must be Mr. Rimmel, seeing that he is privileged to deal in these pretty things, and to be, moreover, the counsellor—the guide, philosopher, and friend—of diffident, pouting maidens and puzzled swains, in making a suitable choice of Love's missive. Ah! would I were Mr. Eugène Rimmel!

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

The new QUEEN'S THEATRE has had another success. On Wednesday, the 22nd, after the curtain had fallen on Mr. Byron's capital drama, "Dearer than Life," was produced a "new and original operatic extravaganza," founded on Donizetti's opera of "La Figlia del Reggimento," entitled "La Vivandière; or, True to the Corps." I am glad to have to congratulate the author, Mr. W. S. Gilbert, on the favourable reception of a work that shows so considerable an advance on his previous effort—a burlesque on the subject of "L'Elisir d'Amore," at the St. James's Theatre. The couplets in "La Vivandière" are pointed and polished throughout; the story of the opera is followed and departed from in a most amusing manner; and characters unknown to Donizetti's librettist are introduced, but all with a distinct purpose and a broad effect. The puns are now and then, neat and graceful as those of Mr. Planché; and here and there they run riot through six or seven syllables, with the dash of Mr. Byron, or the recklessness peculiar to Mr. Burnand. Mr. Gilbert has the happiness, known to but few authors, of being well and intelligently rendered. The burlesque is excellently acted throughout; but special mention must be made of Miss Fanny Addison, Miss Everard, and Mr. Toole, as Lord Margate, the Marchioness, and Sergeant Sulpizio. The chief honours of the evening are the due of Miss Henrietta Hodson as Maria, and Mr. Lionel Brough as the Count Roberto. Unless my ears and opera-glass deceived me, this lady and gentleman are destined to take very high rank amid the names that figure in the largest letters upon playbills. That the music selected and arranged, chiefly from the "Grande

Duchesse," by Mr. Wallerstein, should have been sparkling and effective, and worthy of that admirable *chef d'orchestre*, goes without saying. The dresses were gorgeous and appropriate, except in one fair instance, and there the fault was rather of omission than commission. When Nature has been so liberal of limb, the costume should be equally liberal of drapery. The Alpine scenery, by Messrs. Grieve and Johnson, provoked an enthusiastic "call" from a crowded house; and when the piece had terminated, and one would have supposed the audience had grown weary of applauding, the author was vociferously summoned, and bowed his acknowledgments from the other side of the footlights.

A rather novel and very amusing form of entertainment has been brought out at the POLYGRAPHIC HALL by an American gentleman, a Mr. Heller. Mr. Heller is not exactly a conjuror—he is not altogether a pianoforte player—and he is not precisely a Davenport Brother; but his peculiarities combine certain features of all three classes of entertainers. His conjuring is rather transparent, but his manner is extremely amusing; and the cool audacity of his remarks, particularly when he fails, invests his entertainment with a certain air of quaint originality. I do not think he is a singularly expert conjuror, and I am sure that he is not a good musician; but he is a very fair specimen of that class of entertainers who depend for their effect rather upon what they say than upon what they do. Mr. Heller's conjuring tricks are to Mr. Heller what Mr. Artemus Ward's panorama was to Mr. Artemus Ward—a mere excuse upon which to hang a variety of verbal witticisms. Several tricks missed fire on the first occasion of their performance; but, no doubt, by this time the entertainment progresses smoothly enough. Not the least amusing part of his entertainment was the childlike simplicity with which Mr. Heller explained to his audience the mechanism of four or five of those eighteenpenny conjuring tricks with which all boys are familiar. Mr. Heller should return his pianoforte to Messrs. Broadwood. It is a very good instrument, but Mr. Heller is a bore only when he sits down to it.

A wretched farce has been produced at the STRAND, which calls for no special notice.

BISHOPS ON EDUCATION.

THE Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop of Oxford delivered addresses on Tuesday on the subject of education, at a meeting in connection with the National Society, held at Tunbridge Wells. In reference to current controversies on the subject, his Grace the Primate said:—"Without entering into all the details of the suggestions made, I must insist, with reference to one, that, whatever changes may take place, the denominational system shall be maintained; that in our Church schools teachers and clergymen shall have full liberty to teach the doctrines of our Church while it pleases the State to say liberty of withdrawal shall be allowed. If this be agreed to on both sides, I do not see why we should not arrive at a happy conclusion on the question in dispute. But with reference to the problem of supplying the deficiency of educational means, have we exhausted all our resources? I think not. If the educational provisions of the Factory Acts were largely extended throughout the agricultural districts and elsewhere a great advance would be made; and I hope something of that kind will be done. I do not think the country is ready to consent to compulsory education; but if we can find out some means whereby greater inducements could be given to parents to keep their children at school and greater inducements given to children to attain to a certain degree of education, those means should be adopted at once. Respecting payments for results, I do not see why an uncertificated master who can show results in his school equal to the standard of the certificated master should not have a grant for his school. The main point, however, for us to insist on is the maintenance of the denominational system. Let us secure the absolute and undeniable right of the clergy and the schoolmaster to teach at all times the doctrines of our Church, then we need have no fear but that all will be well."

The Bishop of Oxford avowed himself uncompromisingly against compulsory education. "Go with me," he said, "for a moment through the process of considering a case. We have in a country parish a lot of a boy who detests above everything being taught. The parents of that boy, however, are by law compelled to make him learn. Are they to be put into prison if they fail? That is not suggested; but the father shall not be able to employ our lout until our lout has gained a necessary amount of learning; so the father will have to teach the lout, because, if he does not teach him, he will not be able to send the boy to a neighbouring farm. But has it ever occurred to these wise philosophers of Laputa, who are dealing with these things on some system of trigonometrical surveys, that very likely the lout dislikes work in a farmyard? So, if they say, 'You shan't work for Farmer Hobbs because you haven't learnt so much,' he'll answer, 'Then I shall go and play marbles;' and no doubt that would suit his temperament a great deal better than learning or farm work. Then what is to be the result of the plan? This boy is to be perpetually ejected from labour because you have been unable to teach him any literature. He will go on idling from nine, ten, eleven, twelve, to thirteen; at fourteen they will say it is no use, and at that age my lout is relieved from the obligation of attending school. He is quite illiterate at the end of the term, and has lost the opportunity of learning what perhaps was the only thing he was qualified to learn—namely, how to get his bread by following the plough, or by some of the commoner walks of life which must be filled. Now, observe, the whole result of compulsory education is this—my lout has been a plague to his parents and a horror to the schoolmaster to whom he was sent, and of whom he refused to learn; he has been a nuisance to the farmer with whom he might have served, and he has grown up to be an utterly useless member of society." The Bishop objects quite as strongly to throwing the support of schools upon the rates. The effect of such a plan would, in his opinion, be to destroy the religious character of public education. The ratepayers would of course have to decide what religion should be taught, and it would necessarily be a religion which, by cutting off everything to which anybody objects, becomes at last a *caput mortuum* which looks like something, and is really nothing. But Dr. Wilberforce cannot consent to teach an emasculated Christianity. "No matter how thoroughly conscientious the Dissenting neighbour of mine is, I must teach, if I mean to educate, the whole of that truth God has given to me, and I must let him teach the whole of that truth which God has revealed, as he believes, to him. The largest liberality in this matter is the wisest philosophy; it is not by seeking for a compromise between conflicting religious opinions that the work can be done, but by the steady aiding of every religious body that will undertake the charitable charge of teaching its own system in its completeness. With fair play, I have not the slightest doubt but that the Church to which I belong will outstrip the rest, and that if payment be made by results it would come in a very large measure to ourselves. But if experiment shows I am wrong, and goes against our schools, that does not alter my conclusion in the least. Let the profit go to the religious system which produces the best hands at teaching. If another sort of religion can be shown to make the best citizens and most Christian people, I would not let our Church have the monopoly of teaching. The less the State interferes with religion the better, and what I would wish to see is this:—Let the State pay by results, and let each religious sect, according to the results it can show, have a claim upon the national fund for promoting education. I am not afraid of the result, but I am convinced that wherever one set of religionists teaches its system thoroughly, and others are cramped in their teaching, the former will in the long run get hold of the population."

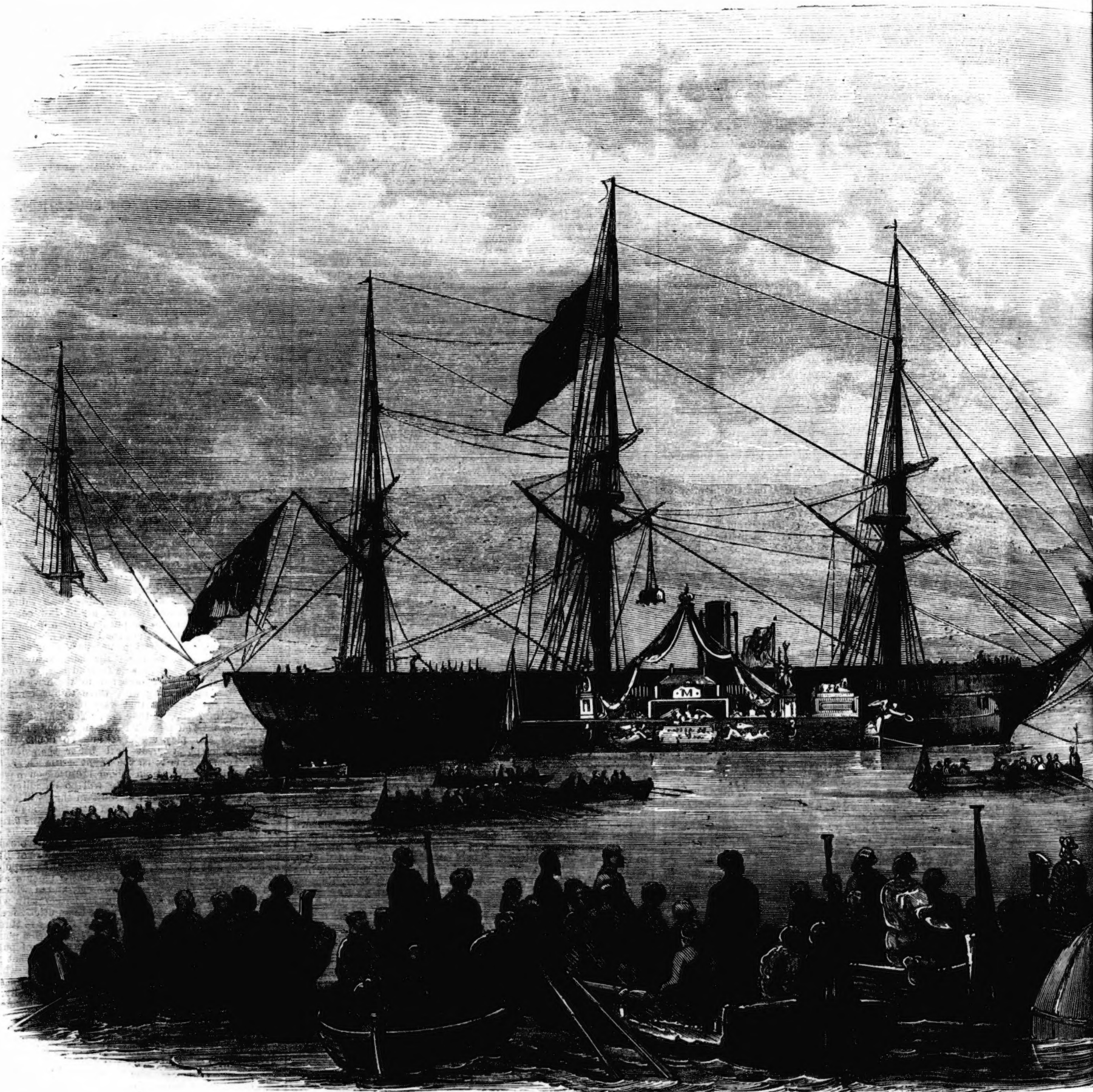
NAPLES has had a narrow escape from a fate not unlike that of Pompeii. Vesuvius has engulfed part of the city. On Tuesday evening the houses and shops which stood on the slope of the mountain opposite the gate of Castello Nuovo were suddenly swallowed up. The side of the mountain had given way, and buildings and human beings were buried. An omnibus and a carriage were passing at the moment and they shared the same fate. Masses of rock now block up the way. How many people have been crushed out of life will probably never be known.

LANDING THE REMAINS OF THE EMPEROR MAXIMILIAN AT TRIESTE.

ON Thursday, Jan. 16, Trieste witnessed the last act of the melancholy tragedy of which the unfortunate Emperor Maximilian has been the hero. Trieste—which knew him and loved him as the genial, amiable owner of Miramar, the generous-hearted, zealous naval officer, the man of noble intellect and acquirements—has seen his remains borne back across the seas from the land where he has suffered such wrong, and carried with imperial pomp towards their resting-place. Till now, perhaps, they scarcely realised the whole sad truth, that he, their "Max," to whom they had waved their farewell so hopefully but so short a time ago, was, indeed, lost to them for ever. But now they have seen the large black hearse, with its nodding plumes and ill-fated crown pass along their streets, bearing away to Vienna the body of Maximilian, Emperor of Mexico. During the transit, while on board the Novara, the corpse was kept in a

chapelle ardente, two or more officers constantly keeping guard over the body with drawn swords. The cabin where it lay was hung with black, the Mexican arms being blazoned upon it; the coffin stood in the midst, surrounded by candles; the decorations and orders of the Emperor were laid upon it. Early on the morning of the 16th ult. the forts of Isola and San Bartolomeo commenced their funeral salute of twenty-one guns. Already, at an early hour, the streets were thronged with people; and, long before the time appointed for the landing of the body, the windows, doors, shops, and even roofs of houses, were crowded with the expectant populace. Soldiers were stationed at short intervals along the streets through which the procession was to pass; but their presence was almost unnecessary for the maintenance of order, as, once the signal for clearing the road was given, the crowd, with more discretion and propriety than one might have expected, drew back of its own accord into the space allotted it, and, save the invariable dog, which, of course, ran down the street, occasioning the usual merriment, not a thing

crossed the road. The town had a very sad aspect. The windows and balconies were all hung with black, some ornamented with silver wreaths, the initials "F. M." interlaced, or the Mexican arms, the greater part of the hangings bordered with long silver fringe or looped with leafless white roses. At last the long-expected hour for the landing arrived. Placed upon an elevated edifice, covered with sweeping black drapery falling about in heavy folds and trailing in the water, was placed the coffin, over which lay a rich crimson cover. The crown and the decorations were placed upon surrounding cushions. On a lower estrade some six officers stood, their swords drawn. The whole was dragged slowly ashore by ropes concealed beneath the water. A long suite of boats followed, rowing with muffled oars and a long slow stroke. On reaching the Molo di San Carlo the coffin was placed upon a sort of scaffolding erected for the purpose, whence it afterwards descended by a slight incline into the hearse. The foreign consuls and officials stood in a semicircle, the two brothers of the Emperor standing a little in



LANDING OF THE REMAINS OF THE EMPEROR

deputed by the Emperor, stood by the coffin side; and, when the lid was taken off, they saw a dark brown face shining all over with the varnish used in embalments, and lit, if such orbs could light it, by a pair of glass eyes. There could be no mistaking the face; nothing was wanting to make recognition easy, even to the tiny patches of red velvet that covered the holes in the forehead made by the executioners' bullets; and the deputies certified under hand and seal that what they looked on was the remains of Maximilian, sometime Emperor of Mexico. Then the poor clay was covered up again for mortal eyes—it is to be hoped for ever.

A FEW FACTS ABOUT IRELAND.

(From the "Full Mail Gazette.")

THE general impression on the public mind—an impression which Irish newspapers and *soi-disant* friends of Ireland are sedulously endeavouring to strengthen—is that the sudden revival and marked exacer-

bation of Irish discontent and disaffection which has afflicted us for the last twelve months is the consequence of prolonged and aggravated distress which that patient people can no longer bear; that their sufferings and grievances have been long on the increase, and have at last reached a culminating point. It may be well, therefore, to ask ourselves whether there is any real ground for this impression, and to call attention to a few facts about which there can be no controversy, and the bearing of which upon the actual condition of both farmers and labourers and the working classes of Ireland generally cannot be disputed. It is customary, we know, to admit that in some points there was a material improvement after the famine, and that this improvement continued, with certain fluctuations, up to 1860; but that since that date, and especially during the last three or four years, matters have taken a wrong turn, and that cultivation, comfort, prosperity, are and have been declining, so that the strongest and promptest measures are needed to arrest the downward progress of the country. We can discover one statistical fact, and only one, which at all bears out this allegation—the total acreage under crops of all kinds, though larger

than in 1847, has dropped since 1860 from 5,970,000 to 5,460,000 in 1867, about 8½ per cent. All other figures, with scarcely an exception, point in an exactly opposite direction.

First of all, if less land is cultivated, the cultivation would seem to be better and the yield to be larger, for the total value of "enumerated crops," which averaged £25,000,000 in 1860 and 1861, reached £28,300,000 in 1865 and 1866. The annual average value of all crops in the last three years has exceeded £30,000,000. Next, agriculture appears to have been directed to the channel for which Ireland is best adapted, and which will always there yield the largest returns. The live stock of farmers and cottiers is increasing steadily both in number and in value. The number of cattle has risen from 2,600,000 in 1847, and from 3,470,000 in 1861, to 4,826,000 in 1867; sheep, from 2,186,000 in 1847, and 3,556,000 in 1861, to 4,826,000 in 1867. Pigs and poultry have nearly doubled their numbers. The total value of live stock, which in 1851 was £28,000,000, has increased as follows:—1861, £33,400,000; 1864, £38,270,000; 1865, £41,278,000; 1866, £45,440,000. This strongly corroborates the statements made by Mr. Mowatt in our columns a few days since as to the general prosperity

of deathlike silence that followed the buzzing murmur of expectation when first the hearse came in view, there was no token in the look or behaviour of the people to denote sorrow or mourning. All was very orderly and quiet, it is true; but it did not impress one with the notion that it was the silence of respect, of reverence, or regret; it was like the silence of people who, having waited three or four hours in the cold, think they have not got enough for their pains. People who had come to see a great and gorgeous show were disappointed in finding that it was, after all, only a funeral. Indeed, that this was the feeling of some and the expressed opinion of others, there is no doubt, as more than one was heard to complain that, having been told to come to see it because it was to be so splendid, "he had thought that they were really going to testify their respect to the Emperor Maximilian, so he came. But, why, there's no silver on the hearse!" Following closely on the heels of the third band, by the sound of which their voices were almost drowned came a *compagnia di Cappucci*,

The unfortunate Maximilian cannot find rest even in the grave. His coffin was again opened the other day to still the tongues of certain tattlers who whispered that the body reentered with so much solemnity was not that of the dead Prince. Ministers, doctors, princes, marshals,



Irish farmers. The amount of their produce has risen, and prices have risen still more. So much for agriculture. For manufactures we can obtain no equivalent statistics, but the only figures accessible point to a similar result. The exports of linen from Ireland reached £6,292,000 in 1862, £8,084,000 in 1863, and £10,327,000 in 1864. Railways, too, offer a fair measure of the general prosperity of a country. Their traffic represents business done, and, to a great degree, labour employed and paid. The aggregate receipts of Irish railways have risen from half a million in 1851, and nearly a million and a half in 1861, to nearly a million and three quarters in 1865; and the increase is regular and continuous. But, it will be objected, these returns may prove that the middle and upper classes are doing well, but tell us nothing of the state of the peasantry or really poor working population. It is well known, and not denied, that wages have risen at least from 50 to 80 per cent since the famine, and, with a few local exceptions, are still rising, though no perfectly unassailable statistics on a great scale can be quoted. But we are not left without a few very significant figures to indicate that in spite of

NUMBER OF FAMILIES IN EACH CLASS.

Crime, again, is diminishing steadily. The proportion of convictions

Surely, in the face of these facts and figures it will be impossible to maintain the position either that Irish distress is increasing or that its increase can be the cause of the present outburst of Irish complaint or discontent.

discontent.

MR. LOWE ON EDUCATION.

THE Right Hon. Robert Lowe, M.P., paid a visit to Liverpool last week, and delivered several addresses, principally on the subject of education. In one of these he said that the late conference at Manchester seemed to have agreed upon three things—first; that the bill, which Mr. Bruce, Mr. Egerton, and Mr. Forster have charge of ought to be a compulsory and not a permissive bill; secondly, that assistance from the Privy Council ought not to be denied to schools on account of their being purely secular; and, in the third place, that all schools receiving grants of public money should have a conscience clause—that was a clause enabling children whose parents were of other religious opinions than those professed by the founders of the school to attend there without being taught anything that was unwelcome to their parents in the way of religion. So far the conference at Manchester had gone, and he had the greatest pleasure in giving his assent to the impositions he understood them to lay down. He believed them to be sound, and to be required by the present state of affairs. He thought we had arrived at a point in education where we really must quit the path of moral expediency, of a morally devised contrivance which may carry us on from day to day, and that we must search out some really sound and definite principle, and must logically apply that principle to the case of the country. He thought it was too late to enter into the question whether the State had any duty regarding education. He thought the State was bound to provide education for the people. Its present position on the subject was purely subordinate and insular.

The cardinal fault in the present system of partial State aid was, that where there was a willingness to provide education the State rendered assistance; but where there was no such willingness, that which should be the special domain of the State, where the State could be a thousand times of more utility than in places where people were willing to come forward, received nothing at all from the State. That he held to be an intolerable condition of things, and therefore he gave his assent entirely to the Manchester programme. He would proceed to point out what he thought the practical way of giving effect to those principles. The great difficulty that confronted us was, that we had already a system of education; that system had been raised at great cost and with great labour, and, although it was not diffused throughout the country, it was on the whole an efficient system, and was in many respects well adapted to the feelings and habits of the people. It was in the hands of the owners of the soil and the clergy, and these were great advantages. The difficulty to be encountered was, how were the existing schools to be dealt with? how were their interests to be conciliated with some compulsory agency which should make education not partial but universal? He would explain to them how he thought the difficulty should be met. He did not approve himself of the machinery of the Manchester bill, and thought that a much simpler, a much cheaper, and a more efficient machinery could be adopted in its place. He did not see what was wanted with two systems of inspection. If he had to put these schools into working order, what he should ask for would be an Act of Parliament containing two or three clauses. They must first settle what was an educational district. In towns, perhaps, he would say the municipal boundaries; and in the country, perhaps, the poor-law unions. Taking these as the future educational districts, he should like to have a clause empowering the governing body in these districts—the municipal authorities or the poor-law guardians—to make a rate for the purpose of education. Then he should like to have another clause that, if they were called upon by the executive authority to make a rate to a specific amount for such a purpose, and they refused, the rate should be made for them. The third clause he would have would be the conscience clause, as now provided. He thought these were the substantial provisions he should require, and with that and the machinery of the Privy Council he could work out the rest. He said the machinery of the Privy Council, because the principle he would go upon was that all schools, once called into existence, either voluntarily or compulsorily, should be treated by the Privy Council in the same manner—that was, they should be all inspected and examined to receive grants. He would give grants to those established by rates just as much as to the schools established by voluntary contributions; so that, when they came under the jurisdiction of the central department, they should be treated alike, with great simplicity of management. The inspection should be undenominationalised. With that simple machinery, he was satisfied the system could be brought into effect without deranging, at least at first, the existing schools. He would not touch one of them. It would be his wish to preserve them, and to avoid above all things an educational revolution. What he would seek would be to add to the old system and endeavour not to disturb it. He would leave the existing schools standing entirely, and would only add compulsory schools where wanted. He was willing that new schools should be founded on the voluntary principle, always subject to the conscience clause; because he was aware in many parts of the country it would work better, as in remote villages. But if it required a rate, Government should prescribe the kind of school; and it should not be guilty of the injustice of calling upon ratepayers to support denominational schools. If supported by rates, the school should be made secular, where no religion was taught as part of the instruction.

The most ample facilities might be given for religious teaching outside the secular schools—as good, at least, as school-children were now receiving.

He next wished to point out how easily his scheme might be worked by the agency of the existing machinery in connection with the Committee of Council on Education. It was an agency which could not be surpassed for efficiency, and he thought it would be a great pity to put it aside and substitute any other agency not possessing the great knowledge and experience of the subject which the present educational staff possessed. In conclusion, he might say that it was quite impossible for such a great change as that contemplated to be carried out without doing violence to many honest and honourable prejudices and many long-cherished feelings. It was a matter in which everybody must concede a little. There were many persons who wished to go at once to the principle of rating, and would withdraw all assistance from the schools supported on the voluntary principle; going at once, in fact, to the American system. Others, struck with the efficiency of the existing system where it had been well worked out, would not disturb it at all. For his own part, he thought that the truth lay between the two extremes. On no account, he thought, ought they to break with the present system—at any rate, not until it had been proved that there was a better— but to supplement it, as it might be supplemented if education was to become universal, in the manner least likely to raise fears or disturb existing arrangements. But, while conceding so much, and wishing, as far as he could, to preserve the voluntary system, he could not recede from the principle that where the State did interfere it ought to interfere on perfectly sound and impartial principles; and those impartial principles, it appeared to him, could only be found in the establishment of secular schools. He rejected altogether the Irish compromise, in which a sort of eclectic religion, or rather a Biblical Deism, was sought to be framed by the religious teaching of different denominations being combined in one book. It was of the first importance that all disputed matter in reference to religion should be kept out of the school, while at the same time opportunity should be afforded for the children to receive the religious teaching inculcated by different denominations.

Mr. Lowe, in reply to a question, said that the question of compelling children to attend school as a measure of universal application appeared to him not yet ripe for discussion, because of the simple fact that in many parts of the country there were not schools for the children to go to. He should entirely object to the passing of any law compelling children to attend school until an educational review of the whole country had been made, and the land provided with sufficient schools for all the children requiring instruction. This reminded him of an epigram he had once heard applied to an empty church:—

Once an artist, as I know,
Bore the name of Inigo;
But a church where people show
Should be called In-I-go-not.

In Liverpool one of the most formidable difficulties in connection with the subject would have to be met—namely, how to deal with the large class of children known as "street Arabs." It did not seem to him, however, that dealing with those children formed part of a system of national education—it was rather a question of police or of poor relief; or, which he would rather see, a case for the exercise of private benevolence. On the general question he must confess that he had a prejudice against any system of compulsion, and he thought the wisest policy was to take one step at the time.

DEATH OF SIR EDMUND HEAD.—We regret to announce the death of the Right Hon. Sir Edmund Head, which happened suddenly on Tuesday morning, at his residence in Eaton-square. The deceased, who was born in 1805, was educated at Oriel College, Oxford, and became a Fellow of Merton in 1830. He was afterwards appointed a Poor-Law Commissioner; and was Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick and Governor-General of Canada from 1854 to 1861. In 1862 he was appointed one of the Civil Service Commissioners. He was a most accomplished scholar both in the classical and modern languages, and no one perhaps of our time had greater mastery over English. His loss will be severely felt by a wide circle of political and literary friends.

MR. ROEBUCK AT SHEFFIELD.

POLITICAL AFFAIRS.

AT the annual dinner of the Sheffield Chamber of Commerce, last week, Mr. Roebuck, M.P., in responding to the toast of "The Borough Members," alluded to the Reform Bill. Since the time, he said, when Earl Russell found that the doctrine of finality would not keep the Whigs in power, he launched a new doctrine, and that was reform in Parliament. From that time to this we had been pestered with the subject. When Earl Derby obtained power he, the hon. member, made a resolution that if it were possible he would screw out of him a real reform of Parliament. It always appeared to him that the Whigs could not carry a second Reform Bill. He said so in the year 1859. Lord Palmerston passed reform over as a thing not worth consideration. The moment that Earl Russell and Mr. Gladstone came into power Mr. Gladstone proposed a Reform Bill, which was too great a thing for Earl Russell ever to forget and to forgive—though he would not say so. He supported Mr. Gladstone; but, somehow, the right hon. gentleman had no power over his friends, though he had over his enemies, for he made them more inimical than they were before. His friends he never could conciliate, and a number of them turned him out of office. Upon gaining office the Conservatives brought in a bill upon the subject. Notwithstanding that he was assailed with a yell of disapprobation, he steadily supported the measure. That bill was more liberal than ever Whig proposed. He had great confidence in the right-heartedness of his countrymen, and he had no dread of the future. It was not the first time in history that this party had carried liberal measures. Who carried the resumption of cash payments? Sir Robert Peel. Who carried Catholic emancipation? Sir Robert Peel. Who carried free trade and the repeal of the corn laws? Sir Robert Peel. All this was done by a Tory Administration. Respecting foreign matters, many people were afraid of war. Speaking from an experience of forty years of public life, he was quite sure there was no danger of war at the present time. There would be peace for many a long day yet to come. There was an element in America and England which was working for mischief. He said with regret that that was the Irish element in both countries. The Irishmen in America held together not as American citizens, but as Irishmen, and in that character endeavoured to wield the force of America against England. The main politics of the coming year might be summed up in three great things—the Scotch and Irish Reform Bills, and legislation respecting trades unions. It was asked by some that Ireland should be separated from England. As long as he had breath in his body and a drop of blood in his veins he would oppose any kind of separation between the two countries.

RESTRICTIONS ON INDUSTRY.

Mr. Roebuck, on Monday night, under the guise of an address on the rights and duties of labour and capital, denounced, with his usual vehemence, the terrorism exercised by the Sheffield trade unionists. Remarking that in China the supply of labour was kept down by infanticide, and in France by late marriages, the hon. member said the same object was sought to be attained in England by the trade unions, and in his opinion the means they resorted to were not the least cruel of those employed for the object. This provoking a burst of indignation among the audience, Mr. Roebuck declared that he would not flinch from maintaining it, and told the following story as an illustration:—"The thing I am about to describe has happened in your midst, and perhaps the person who narrated the facts to me is present. I will endeavour to be as accurate as I can, and I hope not to over-colour the transaction. The brother and brother's wife of John Thomas—the name is fictitious, but I use it for convenience—both died, leaving a boy of about ten years of age. John Thomas felt as a good man should feel, and took the helpless orphan to his home and cherished him. But Thomas was not rich, and the only means of providing for the boy and enabling him to get his own bread was to teach him his own trade. Thomas had a son of his own, and apprenticed both boys to himself. He was shortly afterwards waited on by the authorities of the union, who said they did not object to him having his son as an apprentice, but that his nephew was not the son of one who was or had been a member of their trade, and that he must at once discharge the boy from his indentures. 'But the boy,' said Thomas, 'is the son of my brother, who is dead. The boy's mother is also dead, and it is my duty to protect him and provide for him the means of getting his bread. I can only do this by teaching him my trade. I have not the means of putting him out elsewhere; and if I don't teach him he must grow up in ignorance and idleness, and be a burden to himself and all connected with him.' 'We can't help it,' said the deputation; 'it is against our rules.' 'And I,' answered Thomas, 'can't help that. I will not treat my dead brother's child so cruelly; I will not desert him.' Well, the answer was 'We shall take all the hands out of Mr. So-and-so's shop until you comply with our demand and obey our rules; and they were as good as their word.' Mr. Roebuck was followed home by a large crowd hooting him.

THE NEW LINE OF THE METROPOLITAN.—The opening of this new line of railway took place on Monday morning, for goods traffic only. The conveyance of several heavy trains between the Great Northern and London, Chatham, and Dover Railways was effected with perfect success. Mr. Crapp, the chief inspector of the railway, accompanied each train over the new line belonging to that company. The independent service which will be afforded to the Metropolitan line, owing to the separate communications between the Midland, Great Northern, and London, Chatham, and Dover Railways, will, it is thought, prove a great boon to the company. At the present time there are no less than 174 down and the like number of up trains between King's-cross and Farringdon-street during the day; and, notwithstanding the rapid means of conveyance, it frequently happens that passengers are left behind at both stations. But, when the new line is opened for passengers, there will be little fear of want of accommodation. There will be little, if any, diminution in the number of the trains; and the convenience to passengers travelling for distant parts and not having to change carriages or shift their luggage will be great.

MR. COLERIDGE, M.P., ON THE PERMISSIVE AND SUNDAY CLOSING BILLS.—On Monday evening Mr. Coleridge, M.P., presided at the annual meeting of the Exeter Licensed Victuallers' Association. With regard to the measure which had been loosely and vaguely called the Permissive Bill, it must be remembered by its promoters, said the hon. gentleman, that, although it might be suitable for the south of England, it might not be so for the north, and vice versa. Every reasonable, modest, and candid man must recollect, in dealing with an Act of Parliament, that the habits and manners of the people were different in different parts of the country. With regard to Sunday legislation, no man would ever induce him to lend himself to anything which had the semblance of class legislation. One class should not legislate for another class in ignorance of the feelings of that class, and without regard to their prepossessions and prejudices. When it was said that the man who wanted a glass of beer on the Sunday in a public-house was not to have it, he (Mr. Coleridge) asked himself the question, "How can I go to my club and take a glass of sherry, and at the same time consistently interfere with what, for aught I can tell, may be a most reasonable, proper, and excellent relaxation for the working man?" It was a relaxation upon that one day, and that day only, the man having previously had a hard week's work. Every Englishman must desire the innocent, healthy, and religious employment of Sunday for all classes of the community; but if taking a glass of sherry after dinner and then going a walk in the country did not interfere with the proper observance of the day which God had consecrated to himself, pray why should not the working man be allowed to have a walk in the country also, and take his glass of beer at some public-house? This was the spirit in which he desired to approach this question, but he would not pledge himself as to what course he should take in Parliament. Let the publicans who wanted to close the public-houses on Sunday, in order that they might have more recreation, petition Parliament accordingly; but for himself he was not prepared to support any bill limiting further the hours during which public-houses are open on Sundays. Adverting again to the Permissive Bill, he remarked it could not be said that the present system of licensing was satisfactory. He had practised as a barrister at Quarter Sessions, and with all respect for constituted authority, he could conceive that the licensing system could be better conducted than by the magistrates of Quarter Sessions. The drunkenness of this country was most creditable to it. Free trade with respect to the granting of the licenses had been adopted in one part of the country, but he did not think that complete free trade would answer. The magistrates of Liverpool, declining their jurisdiction, had given licenses to all comers, and the results had been most disastrous. The principle of the Permissive Bill was well and reasonable enough in theory, but in his opinion it would work extremely ill in practice.

THE THAMES EMBANKMENT.

A VERY voluminous report was presented at last week's meeting of the Metropolitan Board of Works by the works and general purposes committee as to the course taken by the board with regard to the construction of the Metropolitan District Railway works along the line of the Thames Embankment North and the new street to the Mansion House. The report, after giving a narrative of the negotiations between this board and the railway company from time to time, and the delays which had occurred, concluded in the following terms:—

Your committee have endeavoured in this report to give a succinct account of the whole matter, and it appears to them that your hon. board and the public cannot fail to perceive how utterly unfounded are the assumptions and inferences contained in the letters which have lately been published by the company's solicitors on the subject.

Although Messrs. Baxter have raised in their letters a great number of collateral issues, the real point is untouched by them, but was fully admitted by the deputation of the directors during their interview with the sub-committee—viz., that in consequence of the state of the money-market, it was impossible for the railway company to raise the necessary funds for carrying their works along the embankment; and, as has been already stated, they urged the board to lend them £100,000 to construct certain pressing works. In the face of this confessed inability to find the necessary funds, it is neither fair nor ingenious to allege other grounds for delay in commencing the railway works.

There is one other point to which the committee wish to call attention in connection with these published letters, and that is as follows:—

Messrs. Baxter have, in their letter contained in the *Times* of the 1st inst., laid great weight on the fact of the non-execution by the board of the section of the embankment between the Temple and Blackfriars, in front of the City Gasworks; and, while allowing that the board have, in their negotiations, been actuated by a praiseworthy regard for the public interest, they repeat that nothing can be done on the part of the railway company until the board have commenced this section. Messrs. Baxter's statements in regard to this matter are eminently incomplete; the railway works in this locality will be entirely separate from the board's viaduct, which will be constructed on arches, and at some considerable distance from the railway, as well as at a different level. There is nothing to hinder the railway company from at once beginning their works in front of the gasworks, except their desire so to combine their operations with the board's as to compel the latter to bear a share of the compensation which they must necessarily pay to the City Gas Company, and which it was the object of the Thames Embankment Act to avoid.

Your committee have nothing further to add, except that the delays which have been occasioned by the promoters of the Metropolitan District Railway Company are so detrimental to the public interest, that this board have felt it their duty to give notice of an application to Parliament for powers to compel the railway company to fulfil their engagements, or to enable this board to complete their own works without obstruction.

Mr. Freeman moved the adoption of the report.

Mr. Richardson said he had carefully read over this report, and he found it to be a document full of inconsistencies, and it ought not to be allowed to go forth to the public, as it did not justify the board in the course they had taken. Under those circumstances, he was of opinion that the report should go back to the committee for further consideration.

Mr. Newton said this matter had been referred to the committee, and they had laid the facts before the board as clearly and succinctly as possible; and, although they had not been able to purchase the City Gasworks, it was because the sum asked was such that, in the interests of the ratepayers, the board did not feel justified in giving it. He said the report was not incomplete, and he felt assured that the embankment would have been completed at the present time if the railway company had been in the possession of money to proceed with the works.

DR. GUTHRIE'S RAGGED SCHOOLS.—The half-yearly examination of the children in Dr. Guthrie's Original Ragged Schools, in Edinburgh, was held on Monday, in presence of a large company. After the examination the reverend founder of the institution delivered a short address, in which he commended the wisdom of the Little Sisters of the Poor in going round the city to solicit aid, and recommended that a cart should be sent round at stated periods to collect cast-off clothing for the use of the children. By doing this a great quantity of clothing might be gathered which people would not take the trouble to send to the school; and though the clothes of a lady of 5 ft. 8 in., or of a man as tall as he was, might not fit the children, he was happy to say there were a number of ladies who met at the school every Saturday who would make them up. This he thought a most honourable, useful, and delightful occupation for ladies, many of whom were much in want of something to do.

FEMALE FRANCHISE.—Lady Anna Gore Langton, wife of the member for West Somerset, daughter of the late Duke of Buckingham, and heiress presumptive to a peerage in her own right (that of the Earldom of Temple and Stowe), has signed a petition praying that married women and widows duly qualified as ratepayers, &c., might be admitted to the privilege of voting for members of Parliament. Petitions on the above subject have been signed by 15,497 persons. The movement is supported by persons of every variety of opinion and creed—viz., Lady Amberley, Sir George Lowther, Mrs. Somerville, Sir Rowland Hill, The O'Donoghue, Mary Howitt, Lord Romilly, Lady Goldsmid, the Rev. C. Kingsley; Sir J. Simpson, M.D. (who introduced chloroform to the world); Goldwin Smith, &c. Mr. Chisholm Anstey proves from old Parliamentary and legal records that single women and widows in England, who were freeholders in counties and boroughs of boroughs, had anciently a right to vote for members of Parliament, and that they frequently exercised that right up to the time of the great civil wars. At the present day in Austria, in the Crown and hereditary lands of the empire, all females, if large landed proprietors, possess votes just the same as males. By the Swedish Reform Bill, passed in December, 1865, a widow or single woman of full age, if possessing more than £22 a year, can vote in the election of members of the Upper Chamber.—*Star*.

THE VOLUNTEERS.—An important War-Office circular has been issued to officers commanding volunteer corps relative to the future distribution of the Government grant. Under the present system a commandant of a corps cannot get repayment from his adjutant of the most trivial sum without furnishing duplicate vouchers, and without indorsing every such voucher as being approved for payment, with the amount written in words, and the date. The great inconvenience attached to this method, and the immense amount of unnecessary labour thrown on a commanding officer, are all now to be remedied by the following simple and most satisfactory method:—Each corps is to have a finance committee of three, beside the commanding officer, to whom, on April 1 in each year, or as near thereto as possible, the whole of the Government grant earned by the corps to Dec. 1 previous will be issued in one sum, and no account of the expenditure of such grant will be still made, and commanding officers will be allowed to distribute them at discretion. Camp equipment may also be paid for out of the capitation grant, subject to articles 110 and 111 of the Volunteer Regulations, which merely require that the sanction of the Lord Lieutenant should be obtained for the formation of a camp. These new regulations will be hailed with general satisfaction by the whole force; but the circular just issued provides that if any commanding officers shall wish to keep on with the old system they may do so.

CONSERVATIVE WORKING MEN.—A more painful duty has never fallen to our lot than that of recording a grand Conservative working man's meeting which took place in Bristol the other day. Painful, because at that meeting the Conservative workman turned round savagely on Conservatism and bit it. The chairman began in the usual highly-becoming manner. "They were met to consider the great principles of Conservatism," &c. So far good; everything promised a nice quiet evening for the auditory, followed by a sound and refreshing sleep. The first resolution was proposed: the Ministry was declared safe by the work it had done. Ability—property and intelligence—popular prestige and other phrases were received with their due applause, and the speaker was just concluding with the hope that the Ministry would receive national support, when a dreadful Conservative workman most irrelevantly shouted "John Bright," and other equally dreadful Conservative workmen cheered. Gallantly bearing up against this stab in the back, the speaker told the working men of England that their true friends were the Conservatives (Applause and hisses). "The working men of Bristol were Conservatives at heart (Laughter—from the heart). This was too much for the speaker, who collapsed, and Mr. Ferrand rose, but we have no heart to pursue the subject further; to tell how during this gentleman's oration these same Conservative workmen hooted, and groaned, and hissed as every slide in the Conservative magic lantern was presented to their view; how they sang parodies on the National Anthem, declaring that on Gladstone, and not on his great rival, their hearts were fixed; how, when they had hissed down Mr. Ferrand, Mr. Raikes rose, and how they sang that gentleman down with a parody on "Champagne Charlie;" and how even their fellow-citizen Alderman Ford was put up only to be put down again with snatches of melody on the subject of Johnny and his marching home. For the conclusion (we quote from the report), "Mr. Fowler said he always thought Englishmen loved free discussion. ('Jolly Dogs' was the next song, followed by 'Paddy over our canoe.') This is all very disheartening. The fact is, it is not sufficiently recognised in the provinces that Conservatism on the part of workmen is an acquired taste. We manage matters better in London. We give them beans before the Tory demonstrations come off, and then they sleep out any amount of it in peace.—*Star*."

LONDON, BRIGHTON, AND SOUTH COAST RAILWAY COMPANY.

Mr. LAING, M.P., chairman of this company, has addressed a circular to the shareholders, in which he states that when he was chairman of the company, twelve years ago, he left the Brighton Company in a sound and prosperous condition; when he came back to it in July last he found it practically insolvent, having spent £8,000,000 of additional capital without any net return; working at 75 per cent of the receipts, which did not leave enough to pay half the preference interest; and with further pressing liabilities of upwards of £2,000,000 on capital account, to meet which there was not a sixpence left in cash or credit. In six months the board over which he had presided had reduced the liabilities from over £2,000,000 to £750,000, and the working expenses from 69 per cent to 57 per cent, for the corresponding half year. As regards the future, the two main points urged by Mr. Laing are closing the capital account of the Brighton Company and the amalgamation with the South-Eastern and Chatham Companies. He states that the Brighton would certainly not have been worked below 75 per cent for the last two or three years if revenue had received no aid from capital. To pay its preference charges it ought to have been worked for 55 per cent of the receipts. He then states that "The division of net profits established by the agreement is 55 per cent to the South-Eastern, and 45 per cent to the Brighton, subject to a revision for the produce of new lines, and for terminal tolls, which, according to the best estimates that we can form, will bring the ultimate division to about 52½ per cent to the South-Eastern and 47½ to the Brighton. This result was arrived at by accepting the published accounts of 1866 on each side as the basis of net receipts. That was favourable for us to begin with, because the gross traffic of 1866 was exceptionally good upon the Brighton and bad upon the South-Eastern, in comparison with former years. But the advantage on the Brighton side was far greater in taking, as we did, net profits as the basis. These accounts showed the working expenses of the Brighton, after some admitted corrections, to be 53 per cent, and of the South-Eastern 49 per cent, of their gross receipts. Now, if we went to arbitration, we must begin by admitting that our Brighton expenses were really 75 per cent. Could we bring the expenses of the South-Eastern Company before an arbitrator up to 72 per cent, failing which we should manifestly be in a worse position than under the agreement? It is quite true that part of the 75 per cent, might be shown to be exceptional, and that the South-Eastern published expenditure of 49 per cent might be raised by showing that they also had made certain charges to capital. But I do not believe that we could satisfy an arbitrator that their expenditure had been 72 per cent, or that it was permanently and intrinsically so heavy as ours. There are several reasons why this cannot be the case. They have more main line, fewer unproductive branches and cross lines, less duplicate running, higher fares, and a better receipt per train mile. The latter reason is conclusive. Their gross receipts are, in round numbers, £200,000 per annum more than ours, with the same train mileage. It is impossible that their percentage of working expense should not be lower. What I do hope from the working union is that the expenses, which if we stood alone, with a closed capital account, there is no certainty of keeping below 60 per cent, may be brought down to 55 per cent, and ultimately even to 50 per cent or lower. If so, we can pay all preference charges, and should soon have a small dividend on ordinary stock, which would progress year by year with the development of traffic. But with the main points secured in a revision for new lines, which will bring our permanent share of the net traffic up to 47½ per cent, if the estimates for these new lines are realised, and with the overwhelming advantage of starting from a basis of 53 per cent, instead of 75 per cent for the Brighton expenses, I feel perfectly convinced that I made an excellent arrangement, and if any doubt could have existed as to this in July last, when the agreement was sanctioned by a large majority, I do not see how it can remain in the mind of anyone who has carefully and candidly studied the facts and figures of the half-yearly reports since published, and those of the auditors and professional accountants." In conclusion, Mr. Laing requests the shareholders either to attend the half-yearly meeting on Feb. 4, and express their opinions by vote, or, if unable to be present, to return an inclosed proxy to him before Saturday next, if they wish him to remain chairman of the company.

THE FENIANS.—Burke, Casey, and Shaw will be tried at the Central Criminal Court, and not at Warwick. On Wednesday the Court of Queen's Bench made the rule absolute for which application was lately made by the counsel of the prisoners. The Attorney-General made no objection on the part of the Crown, but he refused to entertain the notion that the prisoners would not have had a perfectly fair trial at Warwick. Last Saturday a youth of seventeen, named Michael Gough, was charged before the Lord Mayor with posting a Fenian placard upon the wall of the Mansion House. The document was a rhymed effusion based upon the fate of Duffy, a convicted Fenian, who died of consumption a few days ago in prison. In prisoner's pocket-book were entries respecting the execution of the murderers Allen, Larkin, and Gould, and the Clerkenwell outrage. He was remanded. A national schoolmaster, the cousin of Allen executed at Manchester, was on Tuesday arrested for Fenianism in the county of Limerick. On the same day a martello tower in Waterford Harbour was attacked by armed men. They exchanged some shots with the military, but made off on the arrival of reinforcements, apparently without loss.

THE BISHOPRIC OF NATAL.—The Archbishop of York has added his appeal to that of the Bishop of London, and the Bishop of Capetown has yielded to the remonstrances with which he has been overwhelmed. Mr. Macrorie, after taking an affecting farewell of his parishioners in Accrington, it seems, not to be made a Bishop—at least for the present. Consecration was to have been performed, it is said, last Saturday, in the chapel of All Souls' College, Oxford; but the cloisters of the University city are not destined to witness such a ceremony. The Archbishop of York gives a number of reasons for "delay," but he asks for it mainly "to allow the best legal opinion to be taken upon the two questions—whether the Bishop of Natal was rightly and canonically deprived? and whether, under all the circumstances, the consecration now contemplated can lawfully take place?" While the intention to consecrate in this country a new Bishop for Natal has been abandoned, it is by no means certain that Bishop Gray may not take Mr. Macrorie with him to South Africa, and perform the ceremony either there or in the island of St. Helena, whither his own jurisdiction extends.—*Star*.

ENTERTAINMENT TO EMPLOYEES.—Last Saturday evening, Messrs. M. B. Foster and Sons, the well-known ale and beer merchants, of Brook-street and Marylebone-road, agents to Bass and Co., of Burton-on-Trent, and Guinness, of Dublin, celebrated the thirty-ninth anniversary of the foundation of their firm by a splendid entertainment to their employees and a large circle of their own private friends at Lord's Cricket Ground. About 400 persons sat down, and amongst them were Mr. M. T. Bass, M.P.; Mr. A. Bass, M.P.; Mr. Harvey Lewis, M.P.; Mr. H. B. Sheridan, M.P.; Mr. J. D. Samuda, M.P.; Mr. T. Hughes, M.P.; Mr. Harvey Fellowes, &c. The chair was taken by Mr. Dodson Forster, the senior partner of the firm, and Mr. John Forster occupied the vice chair. Several toasts were given, that of "Continued prosperity to the firm of Mr. B. Foster and Sons" being received with immense enthusiasm; and if one may judge from the way it was received there can be little doubt as to the great respect entertained for the heads of the firm by their dependents as well as their own friends. Mr. J. L. Toole executed with his usual ability the duties of toastmaster, and during dinner the band of the Coldstream Guards, under the direction of Mr. F. Godfrey, performed a selection of operatic and other music.

DEATH OF DR. JOHN DAVY, M.D., F.R.S.—We have to record the death of Dr. Davy, the brother and biographer of Sir Humphrey Davy, and eminent as a chemist, geologist, and physiologist, which took place on the 24th ult., at his residence, Lesketh-hill, near Ambleside. The deceased gentleman was born at Penzance, in Cornwall, in 1790. He studied medicine in Edinburgh, and took his M.D. degree in that university in 1814. He entered the Army as a surgeon, and at the time of his decease held the rank of Inspector-General of Army Hospitals. The deceased had been a most copious writer, having written several volumes on general subjects, besides a large number of papers ranging over the whole field of natural science. His physiological researches have been principally published in the *Philosophical Transactions*, the *Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh* and the *Medical-Chirurgical Society*. Dr. Davy has displayed an intimate acquaintance with, and has also written largely on, the sciences of meteorology, geology, and chemistry. One of his most recent works consists of a series of "Lectures on Chemistry," in which this science is regarded in its relations to the atmosphere, the earth, the ocean, and the art of agriculture. The deceased was a fellow of the Royal Societies of London and Edinburgh, author of "Life of Sir Humphrey Davy," and editor of his collected works, nine vols., &c.

Literature.

Sketches of Central Asia. Additional Chapters on my Travels, Adventures, and on the Ethnology of Central Asia. By ARMINIUS VAMBÉRY. London: W. H. Allen and Co.

People who are accustomed to look upon criticism as a trifling and useless matter will be surprised to hear that M. Vambéry's present portly volume appears simply and entirely in deference to the critics! It seems that in the reviews of the same writer's "Travels in Central Asia" there was a general cry about scantiness of details and scrappiness of treatment; and so, feeling that such a charge had not been unjustly levelled, M. Vambéry has overhauled his desk wholesale, and put together whatever he could find about the strange regions with which he is so familiar. Critics are no more likely to be easily satisfied than other people, and it may be doubted if they will be so in the present instance. Of course, no great artistic coherence could be looked for in a collection of supplementary chapters, the pages of which might be slipped in loosely with those which have preceded them; but the chapters strike us as going into an opposite extreme. They are needlessly diffuse, and there is so much repetition as to cause embarrassment—especially when the accounts disagree, or, at least, appear to disagree. The fact is, Central Asia is a large place, and M. Vambéry wanders about without always being so courteous as to let the reader know where he is. There are varieties in life everywhere; and even in our own up-and-up country we trace a considerable difference between the placid tribes of Clapham-common and their fiercer brethren of the Grampian Hills. And, perhaps, large numbers of people together—almost a collection of nationalities, in fact—may be allowed to have very different meanings for the same word, as we also certainly have to some slight extent in England. Therefore we are pleased to be assured that somewhere in Central Asia exists the most genuine hospitality; and we are not surprised at learning that at somewhere else in Central Asia the hospitable host carefully speeds the parting guest in the morning with the loss of his every worldly possession. But then it is doubtful if robbery be an offence; for on an occasion of peculiar enormity, when the "wickedness" of the crime was pointed out, the Turkoman robber replied, "What wickedness? is robbery punished in thy country? This is strange indeed! I should have thought that the Sultan, the Lord of the Universe, was a man of more sense. If robbery is not permitted amongst you, how do thy people live?" That is one of the evils of a disjointed book, and the best, the only thing to be done is to take the chapters as they come, being certain that the reader will be thankful for them.

The dervish holds an important place in Central Asia, but a genuine dervish is not a common animal. He should be as pure and austere as monks were reputed to be, embracing a holy and self-denying life from sincere conviction; but too often he is only a ruined scamp and vagabond, who has exhausted all the respectabilities of this world, and become a hypocrite for the sake of the advantage and license of the position. The Cashmerean dervish is pre-eminent amongst his Mohammedan brethren for cunning, secret arts, forms of exorcism, &c. Persia and Central Asia are the chief fields for him to practise on the credulous, and he seems to make a good business of it; for the wise men of the East are blind to his swindling propensities, although he is constantly showing himself off as a mere mingling of the lunatic and the buffoon. He is to be met with constantly; and, as if the world had not enough of dervishes already, M. Vambéry must needs assume the character and make a pilgrimage for the love of adventure and for the sake of telling the world all about it. This is one of the most interesting passages in the volume, and fresh enough, despite Captain Burton's "Pilgrimage," experienced under similar circumstances. Mr. Palgrave also did a little in that way. Surely, to a man who has mastered the language and some of the ways of the people, it must be irresistible. It is known to be almost impossible to persuade an actor to leave the stage; and we suppose these travellers never can have enough of a good thing. The risk is fearful; and, although none of the three named came to grief, in each case the journey was no "plain sailing." M. Vambéry especially seems to have been in fearful agony at the idea of discovery. And the journey can be no more pleasant than safe for people who have been accustomed to cleanliness and know the decency of a properly-ordered table. In the desert the rule of life is dirt. "Here they are making bread. A Hadji in rags is actively kneading the black dough with dirty hands. He has been so engaged for half an hour, and still his hands are not clean, for one mass of dough cannot absorb the accumulations of several days." But here again is a possibility of confusion; for elsewhere Bokhara is described as the very stronghold of Mohammedanism; and the rigorous cleanliness which that imposes is described and criticised in terms which are proper enough in a large book, but which would look offensively prominent and indecent amongst these few remarks. However, even the Hadjis in a caravan in the desert are not lost to all sense of decency. They perform some sort of "toilet," but it is to be hoped that no one will here understand the word to imply a boudoir, delicate perfumes, or artificial aids. As to the toilet of the Hadjis—and, indeed, my own—it is so simple and so prosaic as to be scarcely worth attending to. The necessary requisites are sand, fire, and ants. The manner of application I leave as a riddle for the reader to solve. Searchers after drawing room amusements who are tired of the zoetrope, and think double charades mere child's play, should turn their attention to elucidating the mysteries of a Hadji's toilet. Upon the whole, the nomad life of Central Asia is pleasingly described, not this especial pilgrimage, but the life of the people who move about, pack up their tents, and have no interest for or against quarter-day. Of course they are in a kind of poverty, but then they have no wants; they are perfectly happy, and might possibly be envied by the wealthy in towns. Leaving our friend the Hadji, let us look at somebody of another stamp. This is the Khan of Khiva, who seems to be a very hardworking and estimable Sovereign. The conduct of his Court from day to day is very interesting. He has plenty to do, and at two hours after sunset he retires to the harem or sleeping apartment. His court is different to those of the Turkish or Persian Courts, and infinitely more seemly. The number of women is limited, the fairlike luxuriousness is entirely wanting, strict chastity and modesty pervade it, and in all respects the Court of Khiva is superior to other Oriental Courts. The present Khan has only two wives, although the Koran looks with a non-Cresswell-Cresswellian eye upon four. He selects them from the Royal family (as is done elsewhere), and seems to treat them quite like a model husband. The whole narrative, the wives, the modesty and industry of the Princesses, and the accomplishments, musical, &c., of the Princes, makes a remarkably graceful and astonishing picture. The chapters headed "Horse Food" and "Dress" will be eagerly read. Mr. A. S. Bicknell will be glad to hear that the horse is in high favour as food, although the sheep is preferred. Horse-flesh boiled soft and mixed up with onions, carrots, and dumplings is a very popular dish. It is worthy of remark that the water first used in boiling the horse-flesh is poured away, as far too strong and heavy even for Tartar digestion, and that only the second infusion can be taken as broth. In some parts of Central Asia sausages are made of the entrails, and considered a dainty dish. Camels' flesh also goes down, like a plummet of lead. Tea is the favourite drink—green in summer to thin the blood and promote digestion, and black in winter, which is rough and bad. "Its effects are for a long time unbearable, and must be very dangerous." Costume appears to be plain enough—simply robes, trousers, petticoats, all ridiculously large, and calculated to conceal the person effectually. It is worthy of remark with respect to the women that they seem still more desirous than the men to avoid any approach to ostentation, luxury, or smartness; and it is, perhaps, still more remarkable of the women that they cheerfully consent to leave the men to do all the shopping.

Here M. Vambéry's most interesting volume may be handed over to the reader, since we have space to mention only such subjects as the slave trade, the productive power of Turkestan, ancient history of Bokhara, literature in Central Asia, &c. But there is one chapter which nobody must neglect—on the rivalry between Russia

and England in Central Asia—which comes peculiarly well just now when so many of our countrymen seem bent on the invasion of Afghanistan. It is a deep warning to England, and from one who admires her and wishes her well. M. Vambéry makes his pages interesting and serious, although at times he can be light enough. But he writes in a reverent spirit, and does not see a jest peering through every serious thing. And, moreover, he has a page or two of good words for the camel, who has been in want of a friend ever since Albert Smith took to "chaffing" him some eighteen years ago.

The Bird. By JULES MICHELET. With 210 Illustrations by Giacomelli. London: T. Nelson and Sons.

What a wonderfully versatile genius is M. Michelet! He passes with perfect ease from the dry details and grave philosophizings of political history to the lighter domain of love and the poetry of natural history. The duties of the professor, analysing the most subtle of human emotions, and observing the habits of the denizens of earth, sea, and air, are alike easy to him. After having enlightened the world by his historical writings, he charmed it a few years ago by his brilliant essays on "Love," "Woman," "The Bird," "The Insect," and, latest of all, by his work on "The Sea." "The Bird," which first appeared in 1856, has recently been reproduced in an English dress, magnificently illustrated and printed, by Messrs. Nelson and Son. "L'Oiseau"—"The Bird"—exemplifies in an eminent degree our remark that M. Michelet is a perfect master of the "poetry of natural history." That is the only phrase that adequately describes the work. It is a poem from beginning to end, in which we find the purest thoughts clothed in the most eloquent language, while the whole is interpenetrated with profound sympathy with Nature and her works and the kindest of feeling for all her creatures. To illustrate what we mean, and to show the aim M. Michelet had in view when he wrote the book, we quote a few passages from "The Bird":—"My book is a book of peace, written specifically in hatred of sport. Hunt the eagle and the lion, if you will; but do not hunt the weak." This sentiment we commend to the attention of modern sportsmen and the senseless members of "sparrow clubs" and other murderers of small birds, whose sole aim and enjoyment consist in wholesale slaughter of "the weak" and the beautiful. Farmers and gardeners will do well to ponder this:—"We destroy the very birds that protect our crops—our guardians, our honest labourers— which, following close upon the plough, seize the future pest, which the heedless peasant disturbs only to replace in the earth." They manage these things better in France now, where small-bird killing has been strictly prohibited by Government, very much in consequence of the light cast upon the subject by M. Michelet. But our author's ideas will be best conveyed to the reader in his own words, and so we reproduce entire the passage in which he sums up his purposes in writing this book. He says:—

The winged order—the loftiest, the tenderest, the most sympathetic with man—is that which man nowadays pursues most cruelly. What is required for its protection? To reveal the bird as soul, to show that it is a person.

The bird, then, a single bird—that is all my book; but the bird in all the variations of its destiny, as it accommodates itself to the thousand conditions of earth, the apex and the vocations of the winged life. Without any knowledge of the more or less ingenious systems of transformations, the heart gives oneself to its object; it neither allows itself to be arrested by the external differences of species, nor by that death which seems to sever the thread. Death, rude and cruel, intervenes in this book, in the full current of life, but as a passing accident only; life does not let the less continue.

The agents of death, the murdering species, as glorified by man, who recognises in them his image, are here replaced very low in the hierarchy, relegated to the rank which is rightly theirs. They are the most deficient in the two special qualifications of the bird—nest-making and song. Sad instruments of the fatal passage, they appear in the midst of this book as the blind ministers of nature's hardest necessity.

But the lofty light of life—art in its earliest dawn—shines only in the smallest. With the small birds, unostentatious as they are, modestly and seriously clad, art begins, and, on certain points, rises higher than the sphere of man. Far from equalling the nightingale, we have been unable to express or to render an account of his sublime song.

The eagle, then, is in these pages dethroned; the nightingale reigns in his stead. In that moral *crecendo*, where the bird continuously advances in self-culture, the apex and the supreme point are naturally discovered, not in brutal strength, so easily overpassed by man, but in a pauceness of art, of soul, and of aspiration which man has not attained, and which, beyond this world, transports him in a moment to the further sphere.

High justice and true, because it is clear-visioned and tender! Feeble on too many points, I doubt not, this book is strong in tenderness and faith. It is one, constant and faithful. Nothing makes it deviate. Above death and its false divorce, through life and the masks which disguise its unity, it flies, it loves to hover, from nest to nest, from egg to egg, from love to the love of God.

The poetical feeling that pervades this delightful book will be best exemplified by the following passage in reference to the song of the dying swan, which, however, is only one of hundreds similar that are scattered throughout these pages:—"That song, of which all antiquity speaks, is it a fable? These organs of singing, which are so largely developed in the swan, were they always useless? Did they never disport themselves in happy freedom when enjoying a more genial atmosphere, and spending the greater portion of the year in the mild climates of Greece and Italy? One might be tempted to believe it. The swan, driven back to the north, where his amours secure mystery and repose, has sacrificed his song, has gained the accent of barbarism, or become voiceless. The muse is dead; the bird has survived."

It is proper to add that this work and its companions, "L'Insecte" and "Le Mer," are dedicated to Mme. Michelet, because, as the author says to her, "Thou alone didst inspire them: without thee I should have pursued, ever in my own track, the rude path of human history. Thou alone didst prepare them. I received from thy hands the rich harvest of Nature; and thou alone didst crown them, placing on the accomplished work the sacred flower which blesses them." Mme. Michelet contributes to the work a beautifully-written autobiography, which accounts for her love of Nature and for the influence which, in consequence, she exercised over her gifted husband.

Messrs. Nelson's version is from the eighth edition of "L'Oiseau," and is adorned with all the original illustrations; and rich adornments they are. Indeed, it is impossible to speak in too high terms of praise either of the literature or the art displayed in this volume. The one is worthy of the other. The translator, too, has done his work well. It is no easy thing to render M. Michelet's beautiful language in appropriate English; but the translator, whoever he is (for he modestly withholds his name) has accomplished the task most successfully. He has likewise added some very useful and interesting notes. We elsewhere copy an illustration and a further extract from the work.

The Garden Oracle and Floricultural Year Book, 1868. Edited by SHIRLEY HIBBERT. Tenth year of publication. London: Groombridge and Sons.

As the season for "doing up the garden" is at hand, Mr. Shirley Hibbert's "Oracle" will give most convenient and useful aid, both to the professional and amateur gardener. It is unnecessary to recommend this book: the name of its editor and its own reputation, which has stood the test of nine years' experience, are sufficient guarantees of its excellence.

Puniana; or, Thoughts Wise and Other-wise. A New Collection of Riddles, Conundrums, Jokes, Sells, &c. Now newly told by the Hon. HUGH ROWLEY, with nearly One Hundred Designs from his Pencil. London: J. C. Hotten.

Do our readers, or any of them, like puns, charades, riddles, and puzzles of all sorts? If so, let them get the collection of the Hon. Hugh Rowley, and they will find therein all these things in variety infinite and of force "tre-mend-us," as we are told "the window would say to the tree when broken by it. For evening and Christmas parties, where people are often at a loss for something to do and to say, this book must be invaluable, for it contains riddles upon riddles, puns upon puns, jokes upon jokes, and sells upon sells. Three thousand riddles and ten thousand puns, are surely sufficient to furnish forth at least one thousand small wits. Why did not Mr. Rowley publish his book a couple of months ago?



SCENE AT THE GRAND MONT DE PIÉTÉ, PARIS.

SCENE AT THE MONT
DE PIÉTÉ, PARIS.

In France almost every public institution is under the direct control of the Government or in immediate connection with the Imperial influence. Not only the street vehicles, the railways, the fountains, but several trades and callings, are directly subject to Government interference; and the pawnbroking business is itself a special department of the State. "My uncle" in England is a shrewd, painstaking, hardworking shopkeeper, who does a queer business with its rate per cent of profit settled by law beforehand; but beyond this he is left to his own devices, and, so long as he is careful to make inquiries before receiving suspicious-looking articles "in pledge," may go on the even tenor of his way untroubled by the Legislature, and known only to his customers. "Ma tante," in France, on the contrary, is a Government official; the Mont de Piété is a bureau—a public office for the advance of State money, and is included in the official enumeration of the charities of Paris; but as *ma tante* exacts the most substantial security, and nearly 10 per cent interest for every loan, it is difficult to appreciate her precisely philanthropic character.

There are twenty-five offices of the Mont de Piété in Paris, which annually receive 1,400,000 pledges and distribute from £800,000 to £1,000,000 in loans. In all France there are forty-five of these institutions, and they are of unquestionable advantage to the poor, especially as savings banks and friendly societies are so few in number. During the late severe weather the sufferings of the poor in Paris have been very great, and *ma tante* has done a larger business than usual—a business which was, however, enhanced by the dire necessities which compelled her customers to part with every spare rag of warmth and clothing—almost every means of warmth and rest—in order to procure food. Luxuries went first, and necessities followed, till the name Mont de Piété was a reproach; and then the Emperor exerted his prerogative and interfered with the operations of this particular department on behalf of the poor. True, the revenues of the Mont de Piété go, along with those of some other offices, to provide for the

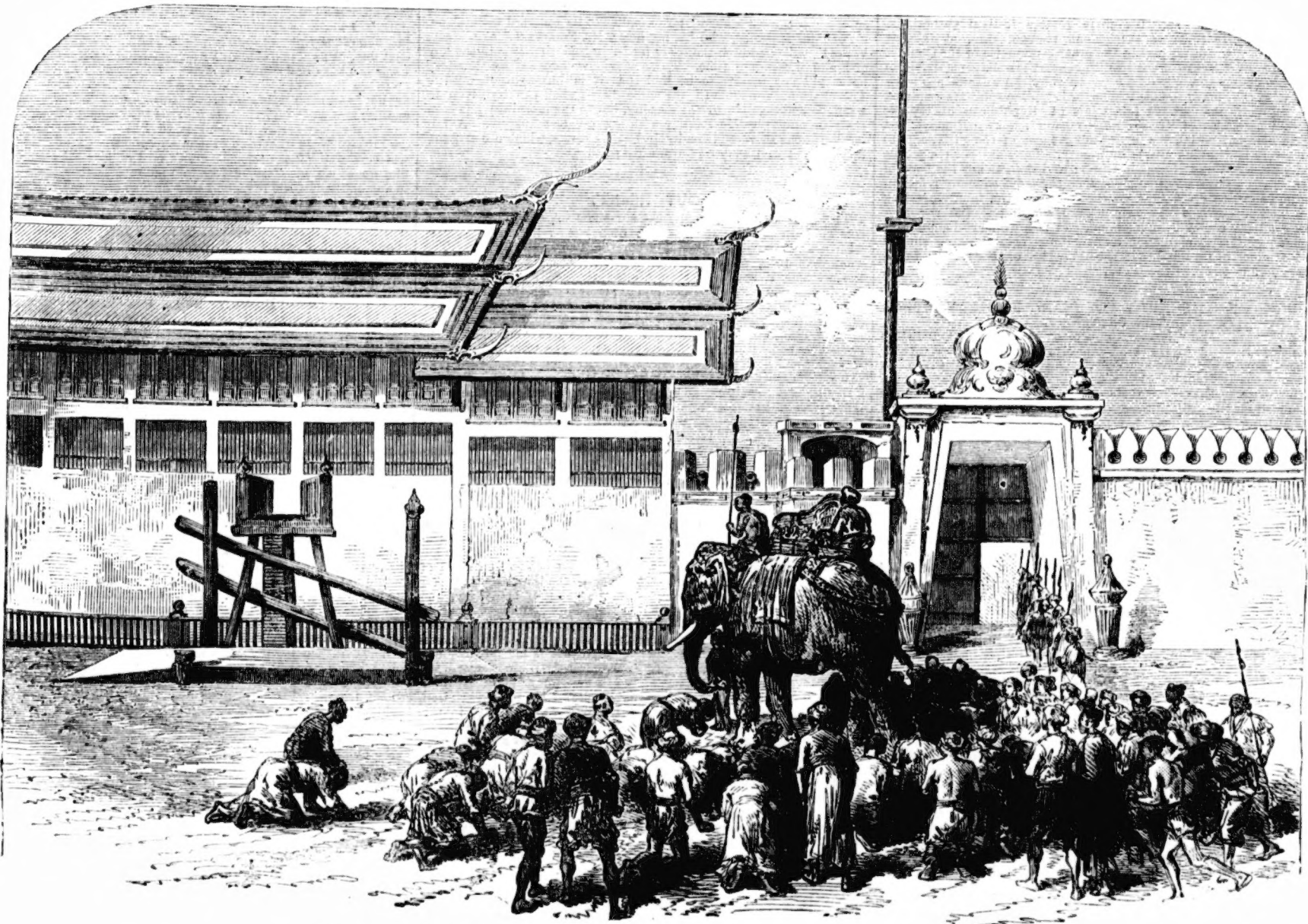


WOMEN OF NORMANDY IN HOLIDAY COSTUME

maintenance of public asylums and charitable institutions; but those who were left destitute by the Mont de Piété must some have become candidates for one or other of these very establishments, and so the Imperial orders went out to the various dépôts of *ma tante* to say that clothing and bedding deposited by the destitute customers should be restored to their owners on application according to a recognised form. It is not difficult to imagine the scene at the bureaux when this really charitable and prompt determination became known—it is easy enough to believe how rapidly the news travelled from mouth to mouth in the bitter weather when an extra coat, a woollen shirt, a flannel petticoat, a pair of blankets, a warm bed, a pair of shoes even, might make the difference between holding out till the milder season came or almost perishing in the frozen streets.

A
FULL-DRESS ASSEMBLY
IN LOWER NORMANDY.

If anything in relation to female costume could be said to have any permanence, assuredly the ancient cap of the Normandy women seemed likely to hold its own. The various fashions, makes, and patterns of some of those astounding, intricate, and elegant head-dresses which were to be seen in Lower Normandy were heirlooms, and to change them would have been for the innovator to cut herself off from those family ties which belonged especially to the race. They were of a sort of heraldic significance—these mighty, or ingenious, or graceful structures of lawn and lace; some of them simple and unchanged from the first simple cognisance of the progenitor of the house; others with certain sub-ornaments, or quarterings of decoration; but all illustrative, and conferring distinction at any general gathering of the people of those primitive towns and villages. It will be seen that we speak in the past tense; for, alas! these marvellous devices are disappearing; that picturesque head-gear, so dear to artists and so interesting to the feminine appreciation all over Europe, is likely to give way to the commonplace innovations of the age; and, unless a museum be specially endowed for their



THE KING OF SIAM REENTERING HIS PALACE AFTER A VISITATION OF THE PROVINCES.

preservation, the very patterns will be forgotten, and perish out of remembrance, even as the art of staining glass, and the strange knowledge of the Egyptian cryptographers is supposed to have vanished. It is true that at Andemer the Cauchoise cap, high in antiquity and renown, is still conspicuous, or was when Mr. Musgrave last visited the place; for he says he saw upwards of fifty varieties in the Church of St. Ouen on the Sunday. Seen from a distance, he says, these extraordinary head-pieces rise above the general level of caps and bonnets, like the white ventilators that revolve with the wind on the roofs of our Kentish malting-lofts or oast-houses. They are by no means indicative of the lowest class of the people; on the contrary, a certain degree of respectability attaches to the use of this primitive and doubtless very ancient costume. The other portions of the dress of the wearers of these caps are generally of excellent material, and the caps themselves, many of them, are extremely costly. Some old women who wore this costume were the wives of well-to-do farmers, and up to the beginning of the eighteenth century ladies of rank (Cauchois) wore the cap when in *grande tenue*, adorning it with the most costly lace and ribbons that the pillows and bobbins of the Pays de Caux and the looms of Paris could produce. The "good old bodies" who wear it now have, in many instances, inherited the national ensign from their mothers, and would consider it an act of degeneracy and degradation to discontinue the use of it. It is the common kind of caps and not the gala head-dresses, that are now seldom seen, however. The introduction of gown-prints and other cheap Manchester goods has probably had much to do with modifying the fashion. The Rouenneries, or prints of Rouen, are sold so cheaply that the Normandy peasant-girls began long ago to discard their hereditary costume; and the cap follows the gown when the quaint bodices and petticoats are superseded by the smart, showy print, and the gay, low-priced shawl. In fact, the marvellous towers and steeples of lace and cambric, or linen, are never found surmounting a dress altogether of the style of the present times. Another circumstance, too, has helped to abolish them—namely, the increased facilities for travelling. On foot on a country road, or on a pillion, or in an open cart on the way to market or to a rustic festival, the true Normandy head-dress would do very well; but what becomes of it in an omnibus or a railway carriage? The magnificent structure would be irretrievably damaged at the very commencement of the journey. In fact, on the great fete days, when the national costume is still more or less exhibited, the owners of these vast spires carry them in their laps while they are riding to the scene of action, substituting a small modern cap for travelling, and only assuming the state article when they alight. There are few sights more remarkable, or in their way more interesting, than one of these old-fashioned reunions, however; and the caps certainly add a picturesque grace to the *tout ensemble* which serves somehow to distinguish them from that of any other rustic scene. A fair in Lower Normandy is, unless it has already become a thing of the past, one of the strangest gatherings to be seen in Europe. To begin with, there are the amusements themselves—"all the fun of the fair"—comprising, of course, a decent-sized theatre, where the genteel portion of the holiday folks may see the *petite comédie* or *vaudeville*; and another devoted to *melodrame*, and a five-farthing audience summoned by drum and trumpet without and tempted by thunder and blue-fire within. Then there are fat boys, wild beasts, ostriches, and other objects of intense interest common to our own travelling shows, but distinguished by the extreme volubility and quaint repartee not only of the showmen themselves but of their wondering audiences. That which survives in Normandy after having died out for centuries in England, however, is a version of the old mystery plays. Fancy a great scaffolding, a platform illuminated with coloured lamps, and an orchestra of drums and wind instruments engaged to attract "a full house" to witness "La Chaste Suzanne; ou, Daniel le Prophète: Drame en quatre actes et cinq tableaux." Admission twopence-halfpenny. But perhaps the true fun of a Normandy fair lies in the stalls, where such an immense variety of articles are sold for three farthings each that even an English Cheap Jack would quail before the extent of the stock and yield to the tremendous vocalisation and glib volubility of the merchant, who mingles commendations of his wares, witticisms, and skillfully improvised compliments with the ability of a distinguished diplomatist. Jewellery, clothing, household utensils, gay clocks, toys, plated goods, all are to be found at a fair in one of the towns; and some reflection of these glories reach even the more remote festival gatherings. But above all, in town or village, at merry-making, at fair, at wedding party, at taking part in the great ceremonies of the Church, the caps of the eleventh or the twelfth century are the central objects to the wondering stranger—the caps whereby the wearers are associated with the idea of female Bishops or Egyptian sphinxes, rendered in a millinery manner, or priestesses of Republican liberty, or animated patentees of "cowls" for curing smoky chimneys, but beneath many of which the fresh young faces of the girls seem to have a very bewitching charm of beauty. They are such a people for kissing, too, these Normandy folk; and that, to say the least of it, is tantalising to a stranger; but then there are so many relationships and so many children, even the father of the family dividing his attention between the infant on his arm and the gorgeous flaming holiday umbrella in his hand. It is a wonderful sight, this gay, bustling, happy crowd; but one cannot help thinking that it will lose much of its interest if the old styles of Normandy head-dress should be suffered to die out.

RETURN OF THE KING OF SIAM FROM VISITING THE PROVINCES.

WE have already in former numbers of the ILLUSTRATED TIMES given some account of the kingdom of Siam and the remarkable customs of its Court and people. Only a few weeks ago we described the ceremonies observed at the funeral of the Second King, brother of the reigning Monarch, and in our present Number we publish an Illustration taken of a sketch representing the return of the King from a recent visit to his distant provinces. The moment chosen by the artist was that in which his Majesty, seated on the Royal elephant, entered the courtyard of the palace, where he was greeted with those profound marks of respect rendered by all Oriental subjects. The Royal journey had, in fact, been a remarkable undertaking, for the outlying provinces of Siam are not easily accessible even by elephant travelling. The most important part of the kingdom, however—that is to say, of Siam Proper, is the valley of the Menam, running north from the Siam Gulf, and bounded by vast mountain ranges which have been hitherto unexplored. The dependencies of Siam are Laos, part of Cambodia and the Malay provinces, in the latter of which a large amount of mineral wealth, as well as numerous gems, are discovered. Notwithstanding the great heat of the climate—the mean temperature being 83 deg.—Siam is remarkably healthy, and the people are considerably advanced in education and social institutions. Four fifths of the population are able to read, and they have the same social habits as the higher class of Chinese, or rather as the best-educated Chinese, who have not been spoiled by imperfect European influences. The population of Siam consists of 1,900,000 Thai, or true Siamese; 1,500,000 Chinese, 1,000,000 Laos, and 1,000,000 Malays. The Government is an absolute monarchy, under two Sovereigns—one paramount, the other subordinate.

It is to the late King, who died in 1851, that many of the improvements and the great advancement of these people are due; for he encouraged the American missionaries, introduced steam-boats, the printing-press, and the study of practical science. He was, in fact, an enlightened Monarch; and his two sons, one of whom is now the surviving King, followed after him in this respect, with the additional advantage of having received a thorough education. By Sir John Bowring's treaty of 1854, English subjects were allowed to settle and build ships, and to be governed by their own laws. The heavy duties which were once imposed have been removed, and a uniform low rate fixed on imports; and Siam may yet hold a prominent place in the future commerce of this country. Our Engraving represents the Royal palace at Bangkok, the capital of

the kingdom, whither his Majesty returned from his long journey, mounted on the sacred white elephant, which is decorated with symbols of Buddha and his religion. To the right of the palace, which is, perhaps, rather a disappointing edifice to a European, and resembles nothing to be found in our architecture, stood the Royal body-guard, a band of picked men, chosen from the finest youths of the nation.

CONCERTS AND NEW MUSIC.

At the Monday Popular Concert of the present week M^{me} Schumann made her first appearance this season. Some hesitation seems to have been felt by the able director as to what, on this occasion, would be a fitting programme to set forth. According to the first announcement, Schubert's admirable quartet in G major was to be the opening piece. This, however, in compliment, no doubt, to the heroine of the evening, was changed to Schumann's quartet in A minor (the first of the set of the three dedicated to Mendelssohn). Then, Beethoven's sonata in E flat (op. 81), "Les adieux, l'absence, et le retour" was to have been the pianoforte solo; for which, however, was substituted the sonata, by the same master (op. 101), in A major. In the sonata the usual impression was produced by M^{me} Schumann's impassioned and energetic playing. In Mendelssohn's trio, in which so important a part is assigned to the piano, her performance was equally remarkable; and at the conclusion of each of these pieces she was enthusiastically recalled. In the trio M^{me} Schumann was admirably supported by Herr Straus and Signor Piatti, but it was naturally in the solo that the force and character of her style were above all manifested. Schumann's quartet, though ample justice was done to it by M^{ms} Straus, L. Ries, Blagrove, and Piatti, was coldly received. Not so the "Prelude, Allemande, and Courante" of John Sebastian Bach, for violoncello, which was played to perfection by Signor Piatti and called forth general applause. Two songs by Mendelssohn and the old English ballad, "The Oak and the Ash," were sung very expressively by Miss Julia Elton, who, in the ballad was encored. At the next evening concert Schubert's very beautiful ottet will be repeated. M^{me} Schumann will play Beethoven's Sonata Appassionata, and the same composer's duet in A for piano and violoncello will be performed by M^{me} Schumann and Signor Piatti.

On Wednesday Mr. Barnby gave the first of a series of four concerts, with choir and full orchestra—the first, in short, of his "subscription concerts," which now promise, like those of Mr. Henry Leslie, to be of annual occurrence. The magnificent music to Racine's "Athalie" was an important feature at the preliminary concert given by Mr. Barnby, with his choir, in St. James's Hall some weeks since, when, as on Wednesday, the principal object was to introduce the already celebrated, though for thirty-five years buried, "Reformation Symphony." As now, too, the entire programme was devoted to the works of Mendelssohn. The novelty of this concert was a march, hitherto unknown, and still in manuscript, composed in celebration of a visit made to Düsseldorf (in 1841) by the celebrated painter Cornelius. The work in question is melodious, animated, and full of character. Admirably played, it was thoroughly enjoyed and unanimously called for again. This is another instalment from the long-coveted relics of the great musician, and, like every one that has preceded it, asserts its right to immortality as emphatically as a thing of art can lay claim to be imperishable. It has made every amateur still more curious about the pianoforte sonata in B flat, the sextet in D, and other works, which, it is generally known, are about shortly to be introduced by M^{me} Arabella Goddard, Mendelssohn's staunchest disciple and most eloquent interpreter, at one of the Monday Popular Concerts.

Mr. German Reed is about to follow up his present success in the representation of comic opera with the engagement of M^{lle} Liebhart, who will make her debut on the English stage in Auber's "Ambassadress," on Saturday evening, Feb. 8. Mr. Wilford Morgan will appear at the same time. The "Contrabandista" and Offenbach's extravaganza, which are now drawing crowded houses, will then be played alternately. The Opera House will, in future, be open on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday evenings, and for morning performances on Tuesdays and Fridays.

Wake, Mary, Wake! Poetry by John Lathey; Music by Henry Smart. (Duncan Davison.) Criticisms on music are very unsatisfactory things to those who write them, and must be more unsatisfactory still to those who read them. Music cannot be described, except in the most general terms and as to its outward form alone. No one, for instance, who has not heard Mr. Smart's "Wake, Mary, Wake!" will be much the wiser for being told that it is in the key of F and in common time. Those who have heard it, on the other hand, will not require to be told that it is thoroughly beautiful. This charming serenade (if the name "serenade" can be given to a song belonging not to the evening, but to the morning) has been sung in public by Mr. Santley with the greatest success. A fair portion of the success is due to Mr. Lathey's verses, which are elegant, flowing, and well adapted for musical setting.

OUT RELIEF.

THE guardians of Bethnal-green some few weeks ago appointed a committee to consider the question of outdoor relief, in connection with a letter recently received from the Poor-Law Board. The committee, in a report just issued, state that in Bethnal-green the workhouse test has been always rigorously applied to the able-bodied paupers. The committee are of the same opinion as the Poor-Law Board, that "the vicissitudes of the seasons, which create rather a temporary suspension of work than an actual permanent diminution of employment, ought not 'necessarily' to cause able-bodied persons to have immediate recourse to the rates." But the committee point out that in practice such a result does take place. Putting aside the question whether able-bodied persons applying under such circumstances ought to be relieved, the committee assert that it is impossible for the Bethnal-green guardians to relieve them effectually. The offer of admission to the workhouse, which the Poor-Law Board believes would always supply an efficient test, has failed in such a purpose. The tide of benevolence, which always rushes to the East End in winter time, has already made poverty, the guardians think, a chronic evil in the East-End. "The committee venture to assert that one of the worst results of the present poor-law system has been the calling into existence of a large number of charities, which, so far from affording any guarantee that deserving destitution shall be promptly and effectually relieved, are in their action spasmodic, irregular, insufficient, unsuitable, and totally devoid of efficient organisation. Their accessibility to the importunate rather than to the deserving poor encourages the habit of mendicancy, and is destructive of that self-reliance. Acting in complete independence of the legal guardians of the poor, their agencies intersect and overlap each other continually; and, as their operations are not conducted on any systematic principle, imposture is encouraged, and both efforts and funds are wasted." To meet the present emergency an employment and relief association has been founded in Bethnal-green, and 400 men are at present employed by the association. The suggestions of the Poor-Law Board have, therefore, in this respect been anticipated in that parish. The committee recommend the guardians to employ such of the able-bodied as are not strong enough for stone-breaking in sweeping the streets and crossings. With reference to woodcutting, the committee believe the guardians could not profitably enter into competition with the persons already established in the trade. The women in receipt of relief might be employed in making up the clothes used in the workhouse. A good opening for employment might be given if the contractor for the works, in enlarging the lake in Victoria Park, would apply to the guardians for labourers fitted for such an undertaking. If the drainage of the Hackney marshes were undertaken, this also would afford employment to numbers of the necessitous. Finally, the committee point out, with reference to this question of the able-bodied, that the equalisation of rates throughout the metropolis has now become a positive necessity. The scale of outdoor relief for the

sick, aged, and widows is about 10d. per week per head, the recognised allowance being as follows:—A widow with two children generally receives nothing; a widow with three children generally receives 2s.; a widow with four children generally receives 2s., sometimes 2s. 6d.; a widow or old man, above sixty years of age, receives 1s. 6d.; an aged couple, 2s. These could not be admitted into the house, because already the workhouse has 200 more than its proper number. The sick are treated more liberally; but the parish of Bethnal-green labours under such peculiar difficulties that the guardians cannot give the widows and the aged the relief they would like to give, and which they feel ought to be given. The report is signed by all the members of the committee, headed by the Rev. Septimus Hansard, the always energetic Rector of the parish.

THE FENIAN PROSECUTIONS.

At Bow-street Police Court, on Tuesday morning, the prisoners charged with wilful murder, in having been concerned in the Clerkenwell outrage, were brought up for further examination. In the upper dock were placed the two Desmonds, English, Barrett, and Anne Justice; at the lower bar, O'Neill, O'Keefe, and Allen.

Mr. Giffard, Q.C., and Mr. Poland again conducted the prosecution. Mr. Harper appeared, as before, for the two Desmonds and English. Mr. Lewis now appeared for Barrett and O'Neill, as well as for O'Keefe, Mullany, and Anne Justice.

Some surprise was excited when Mr. Giffard called "Patrick Mullany," and the prisoner known as John Mullany, or John Patrick Mullany, was placed in the witness-box. He glanced nervously at the prisoners and appeared much agitated. He gave his evidence in so low a tone of voice as to be frequently inaudible, and it was found necessary to make him repeat his answers. He said:—

"My name is Patrick Mullany. I am desirous of being examined as witness for the Crown. I have been a member of the Fenian brotherhood, the object of which was to establish a republic in Ireland—to overthrow British rule in Ireland. I held the position of a centre. I was sworn in last March at Barclay's, in Pollen-street. I was sworn in by James Kelly. He is not the man known as Colonel Kelly. I have been introduced to American officers by the prisoner English. I was introduced to General Halpin, Colonel Healey, and General Burke, now a convict (he was convicted in Ireland), Dr. Morrison, and others whose names I do not remember. I saw Captain McCafferty. I was introduced to him by English. He was a decent sort of fellow, and I talked about the rising in Ireland with him. Before Dec. 13 I was out of work. The strike took place about April, and between those times I had not much to do. The latter end of November a bag was left at my house, and it was taken away by English. I saw revolvers in the bag, powder-flasks, and small flasks of caps. It was taken away the day of the explosion or a day or two before. I remember the meeting in Holborn, somewhere about Little Queen-street. Barrett was present, and I think William Desmond, but English was not. This was about a week before the explosion. They talked about raising money to carry out an object in view. One man said they must have money, no matter how they got it. Some volunteered to get in £1, others 18s., 12s., or 10s. Powder was to be bought with the money. Each man was to get powder in small quantities, as much as they could get. They were then to meet at the American Stores, in Oxford-street, to see if they had got enough powder, and to see how they were getting on. They could not settle then, and English said he could get them a house in the Cattle Market. I went there with English. It would not do, so we tried another place in the neighbourhood. When we got there they related how they got on all day. There was only one man who had got 25 lb. of powder. One man was giving orders and another would not receive them, and it terminated in a sort of quarrel. I attended William Desmond's house the Tuesday or Wednesday before the explosion. English and Barrett attended that meeting. William Desmond was there. I saw one man very pale in the face. He had a hole in his coat, on the left shoulder, penetrating his waistcoat and shirt. I saw Barrett, whom I knew by the name of Jackson, sitting opposite, with a revolver in his hand which belonged to English—a breech-loader. They were discussing the merits of it, and said it was no good. I saw five or six more revolvers in the room. I saw another pistol loaded and given to another man. A man had got a barrel and another was to get a dish which was to be put in the end of the barrel to carry the light to the barrel. They asked for a truck; and I think it was O'Neill who said he could get one from Mannocks. A man was sent out to look after the truck, and returned in a short time saying 'It was all right.' I know the place where the truck was kept. He had gone just about the right time to get there and back. They were to meet next day, at twelve o'clock, at William Desmond's house. I told him I was too busy and could not come. I heard that Jackson had been up to the House of Detention to see the place a day or so before. I did not get to the meeting on the Thursday, but I saw Jackson and another man that night. He told me that it had failed, and they would try to-morrow to send it to hell. I next saw Jackson on Friday night (the day of the explosion). I noticed that his whiskers were off and another man's coat on him. I began to chaff him about his whiskers, and he told me that he took them off, that it was he that lit the fuse, and that he was afraid he would be identified if he kept them on. I asked him who was with him, and he told me. The other man I noticed had his ear off, but that man was not with him when he said he lit the fuse; he was in my workshop, and that was in the public-house. He said he was going away, but I would hear from him. I did not see him again till he was brought into this court on Monday week. Before the explosion I knew that Barrett and another man came to this court at the time that a man named Brown, or Burke, was examined here. He had two loaded revolvers with him. I saw him in the late part of the day, and he said he and the other man had brought them to shoot Corydon, but they could not do so; they could not get in, and so they could not do it here. The next day Jackson (Barrett) told me that they remained there all day to shoot Corydon, and the third day Barrett came down by himself; the other could not come. I have heard something from English about Greek fire on two occasions. About twelve months since I knew a man to be mixing it in English's place. The man came to ask English if he could get him a place to mix it in, and he said he wanted money as much as any one, and they could do it at his place. After it was done he wanted me to have some in my place to keep it, but I refused it. I had known him have phosphorus in his place before. The Greek fire was kept in black bottles with caps to keep the air out. I had some of them in my hand. It was about a month before that he showed me some tin cases which he said was to mix with other combustibles that I don't know for the purpose of making Greek fire. He wanted me to take some of that to take care of, but I would not. I first knew Brown, under the name of Winslow, in the early part of last summer. He was introduced to me by a man of the name of Burnett. He was a friend of English. I have seen them together. Brown or Winslow is the same man who was afterwards in custody under the name of Burke in this court."

The evidence having been read over by Mr. Barnaby, the chief clerk of the court, the witness said, "I know a great deal more about the case."

Mr. Lewis declined to cross-examine on behalf of Barrett, as he said he had been completely taken by surprise at the appearance of Mullany in the character of an approver. On behalf of O'Neill he asked him if he knew that prisoner, and he replied that he had never seen him before.

Mullany was then remanded on the charge of treason-felony. Several women living in Pulteney-court were then called to speak to having seen various persons about the house of Mrs. Martin before the explosion. One identified Barrett as having been in the neighbourhood for about two months; another had seen somebody a good deal like him. Several spoke positively to having seen English.

Thomas Karsley, living in Pulteney-court, positively swore to seeing Barrett at least six times before the explosion, but he had never seen him there since. This witness spoke of the change in Barrett's appearance occasioned by his having had his whiskers cut off.

The prisoners were again remanded.

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 EXTRAORDINARY BARGAINS IN CLOTHS, LINENS, Linens, and Household Drapery.—CHAS. AMOTT and COMPANY, St. Paul's, have PURCHASED a BANKRUPT STOCK of the above, at an unusual reduction in price. The Goods will be sold at their Warehouse, 61 and 62, St. Paul's, during THIS WEEK. This is the largest and cheapest lot of genuine useful drapery that has been offered for sale since the outbreak of the rebellion in the Southern States of America. We quote as under a few lots:—900 pieces of good Longcloth, worth 5s. 6d., will be sold at 2s. 11d. per dozen; 1100 pieces of heavy Cloth, suitable for nightgowns, originally 4s. 9d., are all marked 5s. 11d. per dozen; several hundred pieces of fine Horrocks's and India Longcloth, worth 7s. 6d., will be cleared out at 4s. 4d. per dozen; a large lot of all-India Glass-cloths will be sold at 1s. 9d. per twelve squares—these goods are very cheap; Glass-cloths at 3s. 11d., 4s. 11d., and 6s. 9d., worth more than double the money; 1500 pairs of stout Cotton Sheets, originally 8s. 9d., will be sold at 4s. 11d. per pair; a large lot of Cotton Sheets, eighty inches wide, 50 1/2 will be sold from 8s. 11d. to 12s. 6d. per pair; 1200 pairs of Linen Sheet, all linen, will be sold at 7s. 11d. per pair, worth 14s. 6d.; stout Linen Sheets, large size, 10s. 6d., 14s. 9d., and 18s. 9d., worth from 14s. 9d. to 18s. 9d.; 400 dozen of Towellings, in various makes, are marked 5s. 6d., and 7s. 6d. per dozen, worth 8s. 6d. and 12s. 6d.; 400 dozen very heavy all-linen Medical Rubber Towels, usually sold at 18s. 6d., will be sold at 10s. 11d. per pair; 1000 dozen of good Nursery Dispers, will be sold 2s. 4d. per dozen; 450 dozen very heavy, all linen, for 5s. 11d., worth 8s. 6d.; magnificent double Damask Table Cloths, two yards square, for 11s. 11d.; 800 large size, to dine 14 persons, worth 21s., will be sold at 10s. 9d.; 470 dozen linen, real Hambro Danmark Dinner Napkins, worth 8s. 9d., for 3s. 11d. per dozen; 300 dozen extra large size, worth 16s. 6d., for 7s. 11d. per dozen; 1500 dozen of Cambric Handkerchiefs, all linen, will be sold at 1s. 9d. per dozen; several hundred good heavy Bed Quilts, at half their cost of production.
 CHAS. AMOTT and CO., 61 and 62, St. Paul's.

LYONS SILKS.
 SEWELL and CO. are now offering a Manufacturer's Stock at one third less than the Cost Price, including several hundred Dresses of Fancy Striped Silks at 4s. 6d. and 5s. 6d. the Dress. Compton House, Fitch-street, Soho-square, W.

MOIRES ANTIQUES.
 SEWELL and CO. have the largest selection of Spitalfields Moires Antiques in White, Black, and all the New Colours, at 4s. 6d. the Yard.
 Compton House, Fitch-street, Soho-square, W.

WEST CENTRAL MOURNING
 WAREHOUSE, for Family and General Mourning of every description at the most reasonable prices.
 HOWITT and COMPANY, 238, 237, 236, 235, 234, High Holborn.

HARROGATE STOCK. GREAT SALE.
 Patterns free.
 ANNUAL REMOVAL OF STOCK from the Harrogate Branch for immediate Sale, at extraordinarily Low Prices, consisting of Fancy Dresses, Serges, Linseys, Drapery, &c. A special lot of Turco Poplins, at 9s. 11d. Full Dress; and a special lot of Atlantic Serges, at 10s. 9d. Full Dress. Lace and Fancy goods at merely nominal prices.
 GEORGE BURGESS, 137, Oxford-street; and 2, Royal Parade, Harrogate.

VELVETS.—Z SIMPSON and COMPANY.
 Rich Black and Coloured Silk Velvets—Colours, 1s. 11d. and 3s. 11d.; Black, 2s. 11d., 3s. 11d., 4s. 11d., 5s. 11d., to 6s. 11d. Full Dress. Winsor and Mohair Dresses of 12 yards, 1s. 11d., 2s. 11d., 3s. 11d., 4s. 11d., 5s. 11d., and 6s. 11d. Other pieces equally cheap; also—
 1000 Jackets, full size, 2s. 11d., 4s. 11d., and 6s. 11d.—the latter worth 21s.
 Z. Simpson and Company, 66 (late 48, 49, 50, and 53), Farringdon-street, City.

MRS. C. COLLEY solicits Ladies'
 attention to her large assortment of Chignons, French Curls, Colifours, Plaits, Wigs, Fronts, and every description of Ornamental Hair, all of the newest style and first quality.
 C. Colley, Perfumer, Hairdresser, &c., 24, Bishopsgate-street Within, E.C.—N.B. Orders by post promptly attended to.

LADIES.—The most Elegant Styles and
 Durable Fabrics in BOYS' ATTIRE, at a saving of 25 per cent. at N.W. LONDON CLOTHING COMPANY'S WARE-ROOMS, 48 and 46, Shoreditch.

LADIES' VELVETEEN SUITS.
 Velveteen Suits, Skirts 60 in. long, 2 g.
 Velveteen Short Costumes with petticoats complete, 2 g.
 Atlantic Serge Suits, 1 g. each. Patterns free.
 HOBSELEY and CO., 71, Oxford-street.

EVERY FAMILY SHOULD KEEP the
 FAMED TONIC BITTERS (Waters' Quinine Wine) for strengthening the system. Sold by Grocers, Olivers, Confectioners, &c., at 39s. per dozen. WATERS and WILLIAMS, the Original Makers, 2, Martin's-lane, Cannon-street, London.

NEW SPRING SILKS,
 IMPORTANT NOTICE.
 NICHOLSON and CO., Silkweavers, 50 to 52, St. Paul's-churchyard, have just completed a very extensive purchase of Lyons Silks, Black and Coloured, at very advantageous prices.
 The following advertisements detail the particulars of this very important parcel.
 Ladies unable personally to inspect the stock can have 500 patterns, representing 150,000 worth of Silks, sent to them post-free.
 Nicholson and Co., 50 to 52, St. Paul's-churchyard, London.

£20,000 WORTH NEW SILKS.
 Coloured Glaces, 30 shades, from 1s. 11d. per yard. 500 Patterns post-free. At NICHOLSON'S, 50 to 52, St. Paul's-churchyard.

£20,000 WORTH NEW SILKS.
 Checks and Stripes, from 1 guinea a Dress, Reversible, 500 Patterns post-free. At NICHOLSON'S, 50 to 52, St. Paul's-churchyard.

£20,000 WORTH NEW SILKS.
 Moire Antiques, Corded Silks, Chené and Broché Silks, from 2 g. 500 Patterns free. At NICHOLSON'S, 50 to 52, St. Paul's-churchyard.

£3500 WORTH BLACK SILKS.
 Black Glaces, Gros Grains, Drap de Lyon, Drap de Paris, &c., from 1 guinea a Dress, 500 Patterns post-free. At NICHOLSON'S, 50 to 52, St. Paul's-churchyard.

£5000 WORTH of REALLY
 ELEGANT and useful LYONS SILKS, of last year's designs, at 2s. a yard under original prices. 500 Patterns free.
 At NICHOLSON'S, 50 to 52, St. Paul's-churchyard.

FRENCH CAMBRICS EXTRAORDINARY.
 500 Pieces, in varied and tasteful Patterns, all at 8s. 11d. for 10 yards; really worth 15s. Patterns free.
 NICHOLSON, 50 to 52, St. Paul's-churchyard.

SPECIAL NOTICE.
 To Heads of Families, Schools, Public Institutions, Hotel-keepers, and the Public.
JAMES SPENCE and CO.,
 76, 77, and 78, St. Paul's-churchyard, respectfully announce that, previous to Stock-taking, and in order to make room for their Spring Purchases, they have decided on offering, during this Month, the remaining part of their Autumn and Winter Stock, at a Great Reduction in price.

Following are the principal Departments:—
 Silks, Furs, Wickeys,
 Velvets, Hosiery, Made up Dresses,
 Shawls, Gloves, French Merinos,
 Jackets, Ribbons, Fancy Dresses,
 Mantles, Trimmings, Flannels, &c.
 The public are invited to take this opportunity of securing some decided bargains.
 A discount allowed during the Sale on parcels over £2.
 James Spence and Co.,
 Wholesale and Retail Mercers, Drapers, &c.,
 76, 77, and 78, St. Paul's-churchyard, London.

CHEAP LINSEYS and FANCY DRESSES.
 We are selling out above 100,000 yards, the entire Stocks of these Drapers, at an enormous Reduction from the usual prices, the goods having been purchased by public tender at from 25 to 50 per cent less than the actual cost.
 HENRY GLAVE, 531 to 537, New Oxford-street, W.C.

LONGCLOTHS, SHEETINGS, LINENS,
 QUILTS, COUNTERPANES, and GENERAL DRAPERY, at half the price they were in November last.
 A Wagon-load of Remnants and odd lots clearing out at nominal prices.
 HENRY GLAVE, 531 to 537, New Oxford-street, W.C.

CHEAP BLACK and COLOURED SILKS,
 Silk Velvets, Turrys, Velveteens, &c.; some of the cheapest Black Glaces and Gros Grains we ever had to offer; a lot of very rich Fancy Colours, from 3s. 6d. to 4s. 6d. a yard, decided bargains; several bundles in Remnants, from 3 to 15 yards, by the piece, at very low prices.
 HENRY GLAVE, 531 to 537, New Oxford-street, W.C.

VELVETEEN for DRESSES, MANTLES,
 and JACKETS, beautifully sold and silklike, at 2s. 6d. the yard; really sold at 4s. 6d.
 HALLIVAN and CO., Lambeth House, Westminster Bridge, S.

PROVIDENT LIFE OFFICE,
 No. 50, REGENT-STREET, LONDON, W.
 Established 1806.

Invested Capital, £1,507,325.
 Annual Income, £208,739.
 Bonuses Declared, £1,451,157.
 Claims paid since the Establishment of the Office, £4,048,363.

PRESIDENT.—The Right Honourable Earl Grey.
 The Profits, subject to a trifling deduction, are divided among the Insured.
 THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT SHOWS THE ADVANTAGES YIELDED TO THE POLICY HOLDERS.

Out of £283,195, the amount of profit upon the recent division, £2973 only was apportioned to the Shareholders, and the remaining sum of £253,422 was allotted among the various Policies entitled to Bonus.
 The parties insured thus enjoy the advantages of a Mutual Society, and are relieved from any Liability.

Examples of the Bonuses added to Policies issued by THE PROVIDENT LIFE OFFICE.

Number of Policy.	Date of Policy.	Annual Premium.	Sum Insured.	Amount with Bonus Additions.
4718	1823	194 15 0	5000	10,633 14 2
3824	1821	165 4 2	5000	10,164 19 0
4937	1824	205 13 4	4000	9,837 2 2
2027	1816	122 13 4	4000	8,576 11 2
3944	1821	49 15 10	1000	2,498 7 6
738	1808	29 18 4	1000	2,327 13 5

The Forms of Proposal for Insurance are prepared with a view of giving the life proposed the least possible trouble.
 Insurances may be effected in any part of the kingdom by a letter addressed to the Secretary, No. 50, Regent-street, London, W.

SIX POUNDS PER WEEK
 WHILE Laid UP BY INJURY,
 and
 £1000 in case of DEATH caused by
 Accident of any Kind, may be secured by an
 Annual payment of from 23 to 45s. to the
RAILWAY PASSENGERS' ASSURANCE COMPANY,
 54, Cornhill, and 10, Regent-street.
 W. J. VIAN, Secretary.

RIMMEL'S MUSICAL PERFUMED
 VALENTINES, from 1 guinea. Cupid's Magnet, Animated Flowers, Medival, &c., 1s. List on application. Sold by all the Trade, 36, Strand; 138, Regent-street; 24, Cornhill.

TO PARENTS and GUARDIANS.
 Indispensable accompaniments to youth on their return to school are ROWLANDS' MACASSAR OIL, for promoting the growth and for beautifying the hair; ROWLANDS' KALYDOR, for the skin and complexion; and ROWLANDS' ODOLO, or Pearl Dentifrice, for beautifying the teeth and preserving the gums. Sold at 20, Hatton-garden, and by all Chemists and Perfumers.
 Ask for "Rowlands'" articles.

ALPACA HEADS OF FAMILIES
 POMATUM, will find this one of the nicest and most economical Pomades ever introduced.
 Laboratory, 2, New Bond-street, London.

CLEAR COMPLEXIONS for all who use
 the "United Service" Soap Tablet, which also imparts a delicious fragrance.
 Manufactured by
 J. C. and J. FIELD, Patentes of the Self-setting Candles.
 Sold by Chemists and Italian Warehousemen, and others.
 Use no other. See name on each tablet.

THREE WONDERFUL INVENTIONS.
 Ye QUEEN-MAB LAMP, with wicks for four years' use, 4s. 6d. The Perpetual Candle Lamp, with wicks for four years' use, 3s. 6d. The Mistle Candle, or Pocket Kitchen, 4s. 6d. stamps, to THOS. G. FORTER, Stella Lamp Depot, 11, Oxford-street.

S A U C E
 LEE and FERRIS' WORCESTERSHIRE SAUCE, pronounced by Godeffroy to be
 "The only Good Sauce."
 None genuine without name on wrapper, label, bottle, and stopper.
 Sold by Grocers and Blackwell, Barclay and Sons, and Grocers and Olivers universally.

VALENTINES at PARKINS and GOTTO'S.
 By far the largest, newest, and best-selected Stock in London, from 6d. to 23s. Country orders, with a remittance, giving style required (Comic or Sentimental), forwarded postage-paid.—Parkins and Gotto, 24, 25, 27, and 28, Oxford-street, London.

SHILLING PACKET of FANCY INITIAL
 NOTE-PAPER and ENVELOPES, consisting of Three Dozen Sheets of Paper of three sizes, and Three Dozen Envelopes of three sizes to match the paper, all stamped with reversed cypher in colour. Any initial letter may be had. Sent free by post for thirteen stamps.
 PARKINS and GOTTO, 24, 25, 27, and 28, Oxford-street, London, W.

BROWN and POLSON'S
 CORN FLOUR,
 for Children's Diet.

BROWN and POLSON'S
 CORN FLOUR,
 for all the uses to which the best Arrowroot is applicable.

BROWN and POLSON'S
 CORN FLOUR,
 boiled with Milk, for Breakfast.

BROWN and POLSON'S
 CORN FLOUR,
 boiled with Milk, for Supper.

BROWN and POLSON'S
 CORN FLOUR,
 to thicken Soups.

BROWN and POLSON'S
 CORN FLOUR,
 to thicken Sauces.

BROWN and POLSON'S
 CORN FLOUR,
 to thicken Custards.

BROWN and POLSON'S
 CORN FLOUR,
 for Blancmanges.

BROWN and POLSON'S
 CORN FLOUR,
 for Puddings.

BROWN and POLSON'S
 CORN FLOUR,
 One Table-spoonful to 1 lb. of flour makes Light Pastry.

BROWN and POLSON'S
 CORN FLOUR,
 Packets, 2d.

BROWN and POLSON'S
 CORN FLOUR,
 Packets, 4d.

BROWN and POLSON'S
 CORN FLOUR,
 Packets, 8d.

BROWN and POLSON'S
 CORN FLOUR,
 Tins, 1s.

BROWN and POLSON'S
 CORN FLOUR,
 Tins, 11lb., at 9d. per lb.

BROWN and POLSON'S
 CORN FLOUR,
 Tins, 7lb., at 9d. per lb.